

April 2014
Volume 2, Issue 2

Trinity Episcopal Church

Lenox, MA



A peak inside:

- Schedule for Holy Week and Easter
- Financial Update
- Trinity's May Garden Party
- Godly Journey Explores Women in the New Testament

SERVICES

SUNDAYS

8 a.m. - Holy

Eucharist

10:15 a.m. - Holy

Eucharist with Hymns,

Godly Play and J2A

5 p.m. - Evening

Prayer

Taizé Prayer - 5pm

on third Sunday of every month

DAILY

7 a.m. - Morning

Prayer (8 a.m. on first

Saturday of every month)

A Message from our Rector

Dear People of Trinity Church,

Thankfully it seems like the snow will finally melt, and spring will come to Lenox at long last. This newsletter is full of important news and announcements about exciting events coming up during the Easter season. Also included is a brief excerpt from the wonderful addresses given by Reverend Nancy Strong at our recent Quiet Day. You can find longer excerpts on our website.

Perhaps the most important announcements are the dates and times for our celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. Every year I am surprised by how powerful these services are. In just a few days, we recount just about everything it means to be a Christian. On Palm Sunday, we remember the intrigue and the betrayal that lead to Jesus' passion. On Maundy Thursday, we remember the final meal Jesus shared with his disciples and which we continue to share with him – the Eucharist. On Good Friday, we recall Jesus' sacrifice through which we

are redeemed, and at Easter, we give thanks for his resurrection and for the glory which we all share by his gift. These services are some of the most moving and profound statements about who we are as Christians, and I hope that many of you can make them part of your spiritual practice this year.

I know it can be difficult to try out new things at church like Holy Week. Without a frame of reference, it's hard to know what to expect. If you are curious about these services and events, please feel free to ask me. Or even better, I would encourage you to seek out another parishioner who has made these services part of their experience of God.

As a special treat, we will be celebrating the Easter Vigil jointly with St. Paul's Church in Stockbridge. Father Tom Damrosch will be celebrant that evening, and we will be joined by the Reverend Deacon Dr. Jane Tillman.

Looking beyond Easter, we have several more events planned for the rest of the spring.

While all of this activity is exciting, it is important for us to remember that all of this work leads us into the mystery of the glory of God. Our sense of fellowship leads us to God in our community, our outreach leads us to see God in the faces of those in need, and our prayer leads us into conversation with God. It is my hope that we can continue to come together as one community in Christ, and as one community in Christ, we can discern where God is calling us over the upcoming months and years.

I hope that the remainder of Lent is a prayerful and holy time for you all, and I look forward to celebrating Holy Week and Easter with you all.

Yours in Christ,

Lenten Quiet Day

On Saturday, March 29, we were privileged to be joined by the Reverend Nancy Strong, Rector of St. Matthew's Church in Worcester. Reverend Nancy led us in a remarkable set of meditations on the theme One Altar: Many Tables. Below is a small excerpt from her first address:

There is something wonderful about making one's Communion - I raise my outstretched hands to receive the Blessed Host, to sip from the Chalice: it feels very personal and intimate, this encounter betwixt Jesus and my soul. And it is easy, too easy, to rise from my knees, return to my seat, and continue my "one-on-one" conversation with the Lord. In such moments, we do indeed experience the truth of Saint Augustine's words that "God loves each of us as though there were only one of us." However, this is the place that American individualism collides with the operation of sacramental and any other forms of Grace. While I might feel that it's "just between me and Jesus" at the Altar rail, our faith tells us of a much larger reality: the gathered Body of Christ, praising, praying and breaking bread together, here in Lenox and around the globe.

Since we can't quite connect with nameless faces in remote places, we are to start with those who are at the Table of the Lord with us, those kneeling beside us, those with whom we disagree and argue, those we sometimes treat rudely or carelessly. Loving in general is meaningless, if we do not love the particular, the brother or sister whom we have seen or touched, as the writer of the First Letter of John tells us. So what are we to do, to better discern the Body of our Lord, the Body of Christ?

When we leave this sacred space, filled with the love of God in the Sacrament we receive, we are invited to another table (next door?). Have you ever thought about how we choose where to sit? Do you remember your school days? My memory of school lunchrooms is that it mattered very much where you sat and with whom. Were you with the cool kids, the athletes, the smart kids? What about the less fortunate, those considered odd, different,

outcast? My memory is that it was often pretty awful, painful and heartless.

At coffee hours and church suppers, I've noticed that something of the same behavior continues. We sit with our own kind, our friends or family, those known to us, those with whom there are unlikely to be awkward surprises. The visitor, the stranger, the person with whom one does not get along, the person who said something unkind or hurtful to us or our children - we're not very likely to sit with them to be sure, not unless we are willing to make the effort to discern Christ's Body gathered at those tables, too, and to discern that we are part of that same Body, and therefore well and truly bound together - not in theory, but in Reality.

Listen to these words of Saint Augustine: *If you are the Body of Christ and His members, your mystery is presented at the table of the Lord, you receive your mystery. To that which you are, you answer: 'Amen'; and by answering, you subscribe to it. For you hear: 'The Body of Christ!' and you answer: 'Amen!' Be a member of Christ's Body, so that your 'Amen' may be the truth.*

And: Behold, what you are. Become what you receive.

May we open our eyes and the eyes of our hearts, to take a fresh look at this Altar, to see and receive Christ present with us, but also to see what Augustine named as the mystery of ourselves laid upon the Altar, to receive that same mystery, and then so to live as the Body of Christ, that by God's grace and mercy, we are. Amen.

Services of Holy Week and Easter



Throughout Holy Week

Morning Prayer – 7am

Evening Prayer – 5pm

Holy Wednesday

Agapé Meal (simple supper with prayers and readings) – 6pm

Maundy Thursday

Morning Prayer – 7am

Holy Eucharist and Footwashing – 7pm

Good Friday

Morning Prayer – 7am

Liturgy – 12pm (noon)

Walking with the Cross – 2pm beginning at Church on the Hill and ending at Trinity

Evening Prayer – 5pm

Holy Saturday

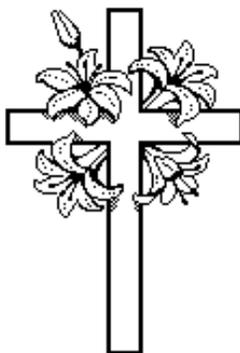
Morning Prayer – 7am

The Great Vigil of Easter – 7:30pm celebrated jointly with St. Paul's Church in Stockbridge

Easter Day: The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Holy Eucharist – 8am

Holy Eucharist – 10:15am



About our Finances

Focus on Abundance!

*As in all things, it is more important for us to focus on the abundant gifts we have received while we also attend to the needs of our parish community. This means looking at the gifts we **have**, rather than the looking at scarcity. This is a critical spiritual task. We have some real challenges to address, but we are also blessed beyond measure.*

As of February 28, 2014

Pledge and plate income	\$14,500
Endowment & other income	23,200
Total Income	37,700
Total Expenses	\$46,000
Shortfall	-\$8,300

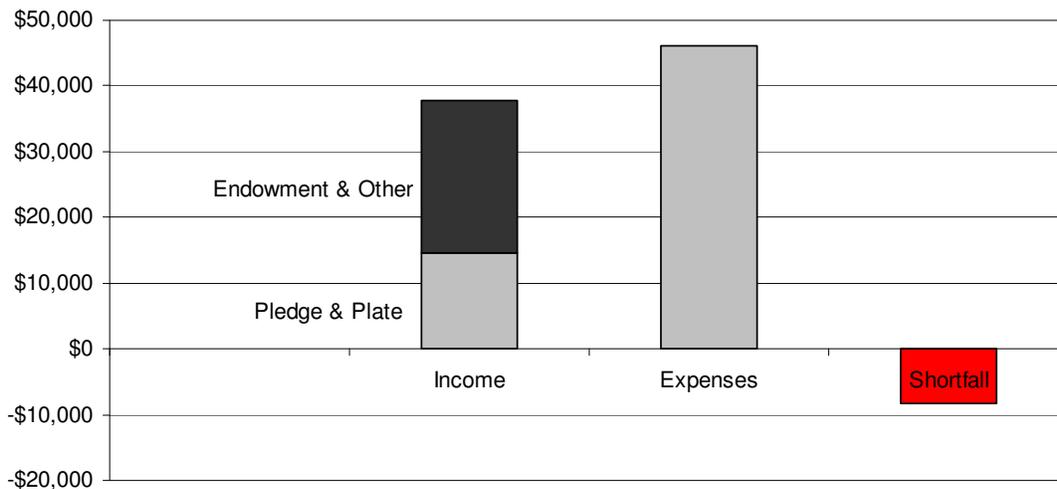
The chief reasons in this very early financial report are two:

1. Pledge and plate income is short of what we budgeted and expected.
2. The cost of utilities this very cold winter are running higher than usual.

Two months of financial results do not make a trend as there are major items, on both the income and expense sides, which are received or paid quarterly. Nevertheless the first few months of the year traditionally create a cash crunch at Trinity, and thus far in 2014 that crunch is particularly severe. We would appreciate your helping us from dipping into the endowment to pay current expenses, like salaries and utilities. That's a bad practice in so many ways. Please make sure your pledge to Trinity is current.

If you have any questions either of the wardens, the treasurer, or the rector would be glad to speak with you.

Trinity Finances (2/28)



Upcoming Events this Easter Season...

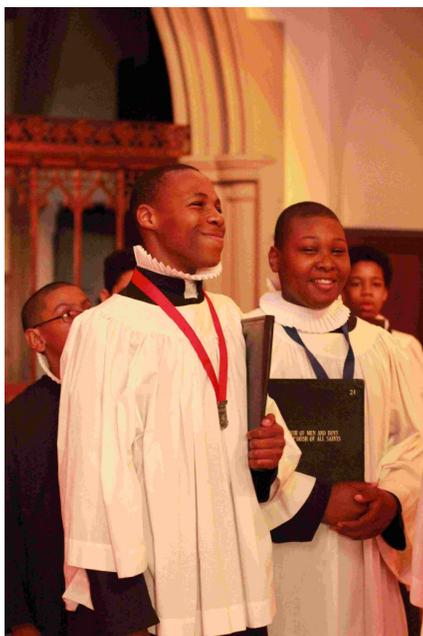
May 3rd – Garden Party

On Saturday, May 3rd, Trinity will be hosting a Garden Party in the Parish Hall. We will have a chance to enjoy each other's company over lunch. Early spring plants and flowers will be for sale – in time for Mother's Day.

Thanks to the Parish Life Committee for organizing this wonderful addition to our common life.



May 11th – Choral Evensong



*A few of All Saints'
Choristers*

On Sunday May 11th at 5pm, we will be celebrating Choral Evensong with the Men and Boys Choir of All Saints Church in Ashmont (Boston). The choir not only gives glory to God through music, but it is also an important outreach ministry of the parish. The choir strives to give urban boys a safe place in which to make new friends, experience the uplifting power of great music, discover the value of teamwork and responsibility, and learn musical and life skills that will last them a lifetime.

For the past four years, the choir has been under the direction of Andrew Sheranian, a graduate of the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale and the New England Conservatory of Music. [A video of the choir singing last year can be found on Youtube.](#) We are very lucky to have this wonderful choir come to Trinity this spring.

Spotlight on Godly Journey: Women in the New Testament



Purely by happenstance, Trinity's Godly Journey Class is currently comprised only of girls. When they were told last June that they would be studying the early disciples of Jesus this year, they registered a very strong preference for learning about the earliest women in the Church. This opened up the exciting prospect of finding out as much as possible about Christ's revolutionary attitude toward women in general, and who at least some of these first women disciples were.

The Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles mention about 200 women (20 or so of them named) surrounding Jesus and serving with distinction in the years immediately following his death and resurrection. But aside from the three Marys—Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary of Bethany, one of Christ's most devoted students, Mary of Magdala, who followed Jesus all the way to the cross, and Martha, Mary of Bethany's hard-working and sometimes grumpy sister, how many of these women did we know anything about? And what roles did these other women disciples play?

Our research turned up some interesting facts. We discovered that some of the women were mentioned by name in one gospel, but not necessarily in another, leading sometimes to confusion and misidentification, not to mention miscounting.

We found that one or two women had the spelling of their names changed (e.g. Junia to Junius) in the First or Second Centuries A.D. by incredulous Greek translators who seemingly couldn't believe that women had played such important parts in the establishment of the Christian Church.

We learned that Joanna was the socially prominent wife of King Herod's finance minister, and that she, along with a few devoted widows who were able to control their own inherited money contributed to, and probably managed the Apostles' finances. Phoebe, who had not personally known Jesus, nonetheless was so devoted that she became one of the first deacons of the Church, and she was entrusted by St. Paul to deliver his letter to the Romans. At a time when women's work

was honored only in the domestic realm (and some would say, not sufficiently there) and their testimony was not even accepted in courts of law, Jesus encouraged women to study seriously with him and to participate significantly in his organization.

In order to see the excitement of these early women more clearly when they encountered Christ's Gospel, our Godly Journey students learned something of the usual, restrictive life of women at that time. They gained a renewed understanding of their own importance and of the importance of their spiritual fore-mothers to God and his Church from earliest days. Each girl capped off her study of women disciples by choosing one particular woman to honor by making a shield that represents her qualities and/or contributions to our overall Christian story. These shields are proudly displayed in our Parish House. The members of the Godly Journey Class look forward to every member of our parish enjoying them, too.

Spotlight on Outreach

For the new year we have been studying and discussing the book, "Toxic Charity" written by Robert D. Lupton. This discussion has helped us examine how we can be good stewards in our outreach support of the needs round us.

We have sent a contribution of \$1,000 to a project and class overnight trip to study the environment . We provided

the students who attend Lenox Memorial Middle and High School who could not afford the tuition a chance to join their classmates in this class trip.

At our last meeting Cindy Nasman, Director of the Lenox Food Pantry (joining us were Beryl Wells and Anita Stuart and Virginia Giddens, all volunteers at the pantry) joined in a discussion on expanding

the needs of the guests that come to the pantry. Trinity have been a generous supporter of the pantry. We join other churches in Lenox in supplying the needs of our neighbors.

Submitted by Gail Street

Spotlight on a New Committee: Parish Life

Parish Life is a new committee whose purpose is opportunities for fellowship. Our first get together will be a Garden Party on Saturday, May 3rd. We are having a tasty luncheon and a plant sale. Our volunteers are: Gail Street, Debbie Burke, Betsy Bemis, Robin Heim, Anita Stuart, Nell Van Batavia, Ann St. Clair, Karen Miner, Ruth Arisman, Sharon DuBois, Christian Goodchild, Annie Tuck, Heather Heim, Jeff

Kittross, Michael Tuck, Jules Seltzer, and the Godly Play children. We hope all of you will join us for a happy afternoon.

We are planning an Arts & Crafts Show in the fall. Knowing how many of you have exquisite talents we hope that over the summer you will think of projects you would like to create for the show in September.

Also, let us know what small things we can do to enhance our life at Trinity. For example, we've organized and cleaned the Parish House kitchen & replaced some of the old stuff. Let us know what's on your mind- or talk to me, Emily Kittross or Virginia Giddens.

Submitted by Annee Goodchild

The Stained Glass Windows in the Parish Hall...

are away being repaired!

About two weeks ago, technicians from Garducci Stained Glass Studios came to remove the five stained glass windows from the north end of the Parish Hall (opposite the door on Walker Street). These five windows, designed by Tiffany and Co., actually form a set with the rose window in the gallery, and this set was actually designed specifically

for our Parish Hall! Unfortunately, after many years, these windows were in dire need of repair. The glass was buckled and one of the wooden frames was beginning to rot. We are lucky to be able to work with Garducci's located in Great Barrington. With many years experience working on windows like ours, Garducci's is one of the premier stained

glass restoration companies. They have successfully restored windows at churches such as St. Thomas Church, 5th Avenue. They are some of the best people in the world to look after our wonderful windows. For more information, please speak to Steve Peters who has been coordinating all of our window repairs.

Notes from the Choir Room

The choirs are busy preparing for Palm Sunday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Day.

On Palm Sunday, Noah Pott will play a trumpet prelude as well as the accompaniment to the Childrens Choir anthem "Look who's Coming!". For the Easter Vigil, the children are preparing two

surprise anthems. They are very excited about their participation in these two important services.

On Easter Day, the Chancel Choir will be joined by members of the Cantilena Choir to sing three movements of Mozart's Missa Brevis in C. The Cantilena Choir will also

sing during the offertory. The Berkshire StringTrio will play music of Bach, Mozart and others as preludes and postludes. The trio will also provide accompaniment for the Mozart Mass.