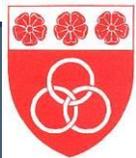


April 2016
Volume 4, Issue 3

Trinity Episcopal Church

Lenox, MA



A peak inside:

- Celebrating our Covenant
- Finance Update
- Upcoming Events

SERVICES

SUNDAYS

7:45 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. - Holy

Eucharist with Hymns,
Godly Play

5 p.m. - Evening Prayer

DAILY

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

3 p.m. - Holy Eucharist
(1st and 3rd Mondays at
Pine Hill)

7:30 p.m. - Sung

Compline (1st Wednesday
of the month)

A Message from our Rector

Dear People of Trinity Church,

Happy Easter to you all! It was been a busy and wonderful spring. There was an incredible sense of prayer in our Holy Week celebrations. The solemnity of Holy Week turned to great joy at Easter and the joy continued as we welcomed Bishop Fisher to celebrate the new partnership with St. Helena's Chapel. At the Eucharist, Bishop Fisher encouraged us to live in this new partnership and to look for ways to make it even stronger. Over the past few months, I have been surprised by the way that people in this congregation have pushed to make this partnership even more than we envisioned it. There is a way in which working with St. Helena's has simply made sense to people. During Holy Week, people from each congregation came to the other's services. People felt welcome and I believe that will only

continue. Looking ahead, I am very hopeful that we will find a way to expand collaboration in outreach. I also hope that we will be able to create a common calendar of programs and events beginning with the program year starting in the fall. Since we are a larger congregation, most of the events and programs will continue to happen here, but we will be able to use the distinctive space and spirituality of St. Helena's to expand the ways we work and pray together. Overall, I believe that this transition has been very successful, and I can only thank everyone here at Trinity for your confidence and your humility in beginning something new.

While we continue to explore something new with our partnership, we also need to attend to some of the aspects of our life together that

have more history. In particular, we need to continue to focus on Godly Play and our ministry to families. On April 17th, Annie Haftl told the story of the Good Shepherd after the 10:30am service. Hearing and seeing that story reminded me of how powerful the Godly Play program can be. This program is an incredible gift that we can share with others, but we need to invite them. We have a few teachers and we have a few new people willing to serve as teachers, but we need to support the program as a whole parish. In the upcoming weeks, we will have several events focusing on Family Ministry – another Godly Play story in church on Pentecost (5/15) and a get together for families on Friday May 6th (5/6). In order to rebuild the strength of this piece

A Message from our Rector (cont'd)

of our life together, we need to show that we support our families and our younger members while we also reach out to new people. Easter is the time of celebration in our church year. It is the

celebration of hope and new life. During these weeks we look for signs of new life and signs of the Resurrection all around us. As surely as the leaves are beginning to bud, I see the signs of the

Resurrection here in Lenox, and I give thanks.

Yours in Christ,



About our Finances

As of March 31, 2016

Pledge and plate income	\$36,836
Endowment & other income	31,513
Total Income	68,349
Total Expenses	\$70,321
Deficit	1,972

Electronic Giving

One of the best ways to help ensure that our giving is consistent is through electronic giving. While many people find that the act of pledging on Sunday morning is an important part of showing their gratitude to God, others might prefer the simplicity of electronic giving.

Information about electronic giving will be distributed in the new few weeks.

Coming into the summer, we are in a fairly good financial position. This is mostly due to individuals who have paid their pledges early in the year. This is very helpful for cash flow, but it does mean we may have more trouble later in the year. There are several issues that should be noted.

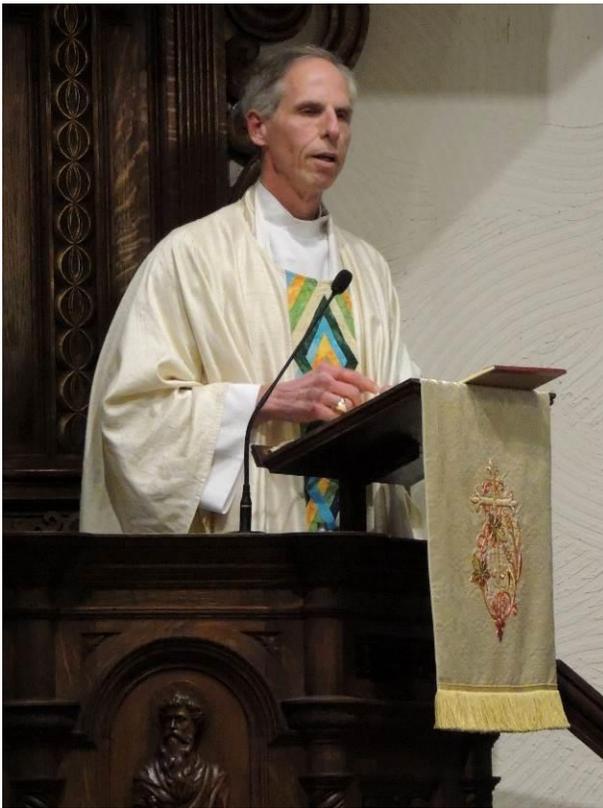
1. Plate income is slightly above budget. This reflects both visitors as well as individuals who have been coming faithfully but are not yet pledging members.
2. Pledge income is above budget. As mentioned earlier, several of our parishioners graciously prepaid their pledges. Over time, income and budget should come into line.
3. We will be revising our payroll plans slightly to better reflect the administration associated with the Covenant. In general, payroll will run through Trinity and St. Helena's will be sending a monthly contribution to cover their portion of the costs. This will appear as a new line of income moving forward.
4. Our new LED lights are already cutting electrical costs, and we will have more information next month. However, this project will cost about \$12,000 and this capital cost will cut into cash flow.

We are in a good position coming into the summer. Sometimes pledging can become more erratic during the summer as people are away. I would encourage us all to consider the new electronic giving program to help make sure that our income remains a little more consistent.

Looking ahead, we may want to consider thinking a little about stewardship and how we can better get the message out about supporting our parish and extending our ministry.

Kicking off our New Covenant

On April 3rd, Bishop Fisher was on hand to help celebrate the Covenant and partnership with St. Helena's Chapel. The Bishop encouraged us to think beyond the letter of the agreement to find new and innovative ways to collaborate to extend the kingdom of God. We were joined in our celebration by many clergy from around the southern Berkshires and also the senior diocesan clergy. Thanks to Ned Dana for the excellent pictures and thanks to everyone who helped organize such a splendid beginning to our new partnership.



Kicking off our New Covenant



Upcoming Events

Family Gathering – Friday May 6th (5/6) at 6:00pm

We will be gathering to hear a Godly Play story in the Parish House and food and fellowship in the Rectory

Garden Party – Saturday May 7th (5/7) beginning 12pm

Join us for lunch and lovely plants and flowers just in time for Mother's day.

Cantilena Chamber Choir – Saturday May 14th at 7:30pm

Featuring music from Tanglewood composition fellows such as Lukas Foss, Michael Gandolfi, and David del Tredici. The concert will also be the premiere performance of *In the Most Silent Hour*, a new work for chorus and strings.

Pentecost – Sunday May 15th at 10:30am service

We will be hearing the Godly Play story of the Pentecost as part of our 10:30am service. Thanks to the students for this offering.

Rhubarb Festival – Saturday May 28th from 10am-3pm at the Library Reading Park

A new way to be present in our community. Trinity will be part of this year's Rhubarb Festival. Volunteers are needed to help with the table. Please see Emily Kittross if you are free to help.



Sung Compline

Led by a women's choir organized by our own parishioners, Compline is the service of the day when we reflect on the events of the day and offers an opportunity to take a break from the busyness of the day. This service will be held on the first Wednesday of the month, so the next service will be on Wednesday May 4th at 7:30pm.

Needlework from St. Martin's Church

Trinity has recently received several needlework kneelers from St. Martin's Church in Pittsfield. Much of this work was coordinated by one of our former rectors, Robert Whitman, and many parishioners contributed to this project. We are very happy to be able to provide a home for these excellent pieces of work. Three of the kneelers can be found in the chapel.



Lenox Rhubarb Festival

Lenox will be holding its third annual Rhubarb Festival on Saturday, May 28, 2016 from 10am to 3pm in the Roche Reading Park. This festival features all things rhubarb. Parish Life and Outreach are sponsoring a Trinity table. We will be selling Raspberry/Rhubarb Ramble from Sweetwater Bottling Company in Poultney, Vermont, thumbprint cookies filled with Harry and David's strawberry/rhubarb preserves and our *Just Cookies* cookbook which, of course, includes recipes for rhubarb cookies.

This is the first time in quite a while that Trinity has participated in a community event and help is needed. We will need help setting up our table and selling on May 28 and we need bakers to make cookies.

The cookies can be baked at home. We have recipes to share or you can use your own. We will supply the strawberry/rhubarb jam. We will gather in the parish house on Friday, May 27 to package the cookies.

Please let Annee Goodchild, Gail Street, or Emily Kittross know if you can help. This should be a fun event.

Music at Trinity

The Children's Choir sang on Palm Sunday accompanied by bell ringers Linda Aberhalden, Amanda Fillio and Dawn Fillio. And during the Easter Vigil, the children sang two anthems.

During the Maundy Thursday service, the Chancel Choir sang "Wilt thou Forgive", a contemporary composition set to the text of John Donne. Thanks to David Pott for introducing us to this gem. On Easter Day, the Chancel Choir sang "Hallelujah" by GF Handel. A special thanks

to Tom Damrosch who provided wonderful accompaniment! Trumpeter Alex Kutik festive preludes and postludes.

Choral Evensong on Sunday, April 17 included music of Stanford, Byrd and Goodall. Our Chancel Choir was augmented with singers from our area. Chris Clark conducted and I accompanied. This service was especially popular with our singers and we are looking forward to more Evensongs in the upcoming year.

On June 16, Trinity will host the **Phoenix Boys Choir**. The 30 member choir is touring the Northeast and their conductor, Craig Westendorf, asked if they might come to Lenox and of course, my answer was a resounding "Yes!" Details of this event will be available soon.

Thanks again to everyone who sang with us over the past few months.

- Anita Stuart

Family Ministry this Spring

Our Godly Play program continues through May 22nd this year. Under the direction of Annie Tuck and Heather Heim, the younger children have heard the stories Jesus Resurrection appearances. These stories, entitled *Seeing Jesus in a New Way* explore the ways the disciples were challenged to open their minds to discover new ways of seeing Christ.

This spring, Lynn Chiavacci, one of our new coordinators, has helped the older students redecorate one of the offices in the rectory as a new space for conversation. This space will be the classroom for Journey to Adulthood beginning in the fall.

Family Ministry is one of the key ways we maintain our vitality as a congregation. It is important for everyone to think about how we can help support this part of our life together.

Dates for Family Ministry

Godly Play and Fellowship

Friday, May 6th at 6pm – We will begin with a Godly Play story in the Parish House and have our Feast following in the Rectory. All families and anyone who wants to be part of this ministry are welcome to attend.

The Story of the Pentecost

On Sunday, May 15th – Students from the Family Ministry will tell the Story of the Pentecost at the 10:30am service.