



TRINITY TIMES

JANUARY 2007

Trinity Episcopal Church

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Alexis Dorf
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Geoffrey Brown
Clerk
Martha Nesbitt
Treasurer

Al Dorf, Bob Reid
Assistant Treasurers

Christine Gevert
Organist/Choir Director

Danielle A .Gaherty, *Parish Administrator*
Lisa Brennan, *Bookkeeper*
Jeff Silvernale, *Grounds*
Junior Wright, *Sexton*
Alexis Dorf, *Trinity Times*

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK:

I've been writing course descriptions most of my adult life. They have always been serious and to the point. You know, bland. Such is their nature. A few years ago, when I was first asked to join the adjunct faculty of Hartford Seminary, the dean asked me to design a course based on my doctoral work. In giving me suggestions for how it should appear in the course pamphlet, he said, "Remember, Rob, to keep the description "sexy"."



That was a new one on me. A "sexy" course description. Well, I thought, the dean's English. Maybe he's onto something.

Below you will find two versions of a description for the Adult Inquirer's class beginning next month. The first is bland; the second is, well, you know. Take your pick. If you have any questions about it, please feel free to ask.

Version I -

Beginning on Sunday, February 4th and continuing, with only a couple of interruptions, throughout the remainder of the Epiphany season and Lent, I will be offering an Inquirer's class for any and all adults of the parish after the 10:30 service. This class has a multitude of purposes. Primarily, it's intended for those who wish to be Confirmed or Received into Episcopal Church, but it is also for those curious about what Episcopalians are and why we do what we do.

I would also like to do is use these classes to address the various questions I am asked at coffee hours, or other occasions of casual conversation, about aspects of scripture, Christian history, and the traditions represented in the church. I promise, even if you're a life-long Episcopalian, there will be something new to be learned.

The title of the course is "From Jerusalem to Lakeville". Each session will trace the development of our distinct form of Christianity from its roots to the founding of Trinity Church. Included will be stories and observations about earliest Christianity, the establishment of Christendom, the Celtic missionaries, Henry VIII, the American Revolution, and many other events, topics, and personalities.

As the course draws upon a variety of sources, there is no one text. Instead, the vicar's weblog will provide information and links to a variety of source material that should inform and illuminate the various topics. As with anything in the Episcopal Church, all are invited and all are welcome.

Version II –

Escaped Slaves! Wild Monks!! Blue-Faced Druids!!! And, the Betrayal at Whitby!!!!

Join us on Sundays after the 10:30 service, beginning February 4th.

Actually, I think I'm better at bland.

Father Clements

THANKS!



As always, December was a busy month at Trinity!

Thanks and a round of applause to Ginny Dildine, Jane Lipton, Alice Tweed and Trudy

Washburn for hosting yet another successful holiday bazaar! Over \$1500.00 was raised for Trinity's various undertakings. Ginny and Alice wish to extend thanks as well to all those who bought, sold, served, ate, baked, and contributed to the day.

Thanks also to Pageant Director Geoff Brown, Christine Gevert, and the young people (and their chauffeur parents!) for another heartwarming presentation of the annual Christmas pageant.

As always, the flower committee under the direction of Luis Francke decorated the church with garlands, candles and pointsettias to welcome the Christ Child among us. It is hard to imagine any church that is prettier than Trinity at Christmas (unless, of course, it is Trinity at Easter).

Cheryl Duntz coordinated our Christmas gifts for children in Canaan, and sends the following:

Dear Trinity Friends,

Many Thanks for the wonderful gifts that were on the "wish list" this Holiday season. I was able to see them go home and I can tell you how very grateful the parents are. One mother said it had turned her Christmas around for the family. The cards were filled beyond expectation with kindness and love.

Peace and Happy New Year !

Cheryl

Thanks to Rob for his patience, understanding and good humor as we rolled through Advent and Christmas (and three funerals) during his first month among us.

And finally, to Danielle, who in addition to preparing all the usual seasonal bulletins and mailings added funeral responsibilities as well — we couldn't do it without you!

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES...



Thanks to Geoff Brown for sharing the following with us...

During soccer these past two summers I often wondered if it made any impression at all on the kids that before we played soccer we ALWAYS recited the Lord's Prayer. Or rather, I always recited it, with the kids mumbling more or

less intelligibly along with me.

Well, in today's Christmas pageant rehearsal I got my answer. At the point that the shepherds enter the story, the script has the Angel Gabriel herd the small angels up the aisle to meet them and together proclaim the small angels' one big line of the whole pageant; "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace....etc."

Slava dutifully herded the small angels up the aisle, and I directed, "Okay, angels -- do your thing!" They, in unison, in strong voices, immediately recited the entire Lord's Prayer.

It was really quite impressive. I was actually a little bit choked up. I almost hate to de-program them!

SAVE THE DATES...



The **Annual Meeting** will take place on Jan. 28 after the 10:30 service (inclement weather date Feb. 4). Officers and Vestry members will be elected and other necessary business will be transacted. *(If you are the head of a committee, please e-mail your annual report to Danielle in the office ASAP!)*

The **Deanery Confirmation** will be held May 12, 2007 at St. Michael's in Litchfield.



Periodically we are all in need of a review of just exactly what we are doing in our Sunday morning liturgy and why we are doing it. An **In-structed Eucharist** is planned for Feb. 25. Please join us that morning—we guarantee you will leave church a lot smarter than when you came!

Shrove Tuesday Evensong will be held Feb. 20, with a pancake supper to follow. The dinner is free, but donations will be accepted for Episcopal Relief and Development.

CRESCENDO!

Dates: Saturday, March 31st at 7.30 pm at St. James, Great Barrington

and

Sunday, April 1st at 4 pm at Trinity.

Crescendo will present a concert with rarely heard Baroque Music of Bach's elder cousin, Johann Ludwig, and of Joseph Haydn. It will also be the debut of Crescendo's Period Instrument Orchestra (playing on gut-strings and in baroque tunings) accompanying the Crescendo Choir and Soloists. Another rarely heard and very attractive piece in this program is Haydn's Double Concert for Harpsichord and Violin.

Repertoire: Johann Ludwig Bach's Cantata "Die mit Traenen säen" (*Those who sow with sorrow*), and Motet for Double Choir "Das ist meine Freude" (*This is my Joy*). Joseph Haydn Double Concerto for Violin and Harpsichord Hob.XVIII: 6, Missa Brevis Sancti Joanni de Deo (Kleine Orgelmesse) and the last choir of The Creation.

Performers: The Crescendo Choir, Soloists, and Crescendo Period Instrument Orchestra, Solo Violinist and Concert Master Lisa Rautenberg. Christine Gevert, Harpsichord Soloist and conductor.

Tickets: \$25.00

Information and reservations: 860-435-4866

Trinity Church records with sorrow the death of Albert Forbes Tyndall, Jr. on December 19, 2006. We extend condolences to his wife, Louise, and to his children and grandchildren.

May his soul, and those of all the departed, rest in eternal peace.



THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR

Some saint or other (identification welcomed!) once said that we come from God and we return to God. To me, that sounds like God is “out there” and I am “right here”, eventually to return to “out there”. I don’t think of God that way, as the Creator who retired after completing his work and occasionally reaches down into the affairs of humankind to tweak things a little.

Rather, the best analogy I can think of is that God is like air. I live in an atmosphere of air and simultaneously have air in my lungs. I am in air and air is in me. God is both external and internal, both outside myself and present within me.

I “breathe in” God when I meditate or pray, when I read Scripture and commentaries, when I participate in liturgy or Education for Ministry or book study groups at church, when a friend ministers to me in time of crisis.

I “breathe out” God when I am consciously grateful, when I make an effort to see God pre-

sent in all creation, when I love what God loves (which is of course all that is), when I am present to someone in need. To remember to “breathe out God” is not always easy, especially when I am annoyed or impatient or just cranky! But I am working on it, and I assume my efforts, such as they are, are acceptable to God.

On a larger scale, at Trinity we “breathe out” God by welcoming visitors and newcomers, by filling school backpacks, with our Thanksgiving food collection, with Christmas gifts for those who have none, with monetary donations to the victims of war or natural disasters.

We “breathe out” God in sharing our spiritual journeys, with all their peaks and valleys, with one another, and in supporting one another’s efforts at becoming the people God knows we can be.

Where is God for you?

- Alexis Dorf

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