



TRINITY TIMES

FEBRUARY 2007

Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Office Hours:
12:00 noon - 4:00 PM

The Rev. Dr. Robert Clements
Vicar

Linda Lloyd
Senior Warden
Alexis Dorf
Junior Warden

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:



When I was first a rector, it was common for me to celebrate a Eucharist early every weekday morning of Lent. Yes, I was earnest in those days. I was also single, had no pets, and was still in my twenties. One morning my alarm didn't go off and I wound up getting to church about ten minutes late. As it was, I had rolled out of bed and thrown on clothes that were not entirely appropriate to my profession. However, it was easy to cover up a Grateful Dead t-shirt and well-used jeans with a black cassock.

Shortly after the service, a parishioner told me that one of our members had been taken to the hospital overnight. Since the hospital was twenty-five miles away, I left immediately, still wearing the cassock as camouflage. When I arrived at the hospital, I inquired at the nurse's station as to which room housed my parishioner. The nurse on duty looked at me and asked why I was wearing a cassock and not my clerical collar. Rather than tell her the mundane reality, I said, "Because it's Lent."

She looked at me quizzically and asked, "Who'd you lend it to?"

When asked, which is admittedly rare, about my favorite season of the Christian year, I always answer "Lent". I appreciate that this seems odd. Most clergy would probably say Easter or Pentecost or even Christmas. Easter is a natural, of course. Like Christmas, it's a season to which we relate easily and, let's face it, it's also when you see the most people in church. Pentecost, too, is a sound response as it is the longest season and the one specifically about the empowerment of all Christians. These are affirming times of the year with particular symbols and witness.



Lent, on the other hand, can be a dour season, one of ashes, dark liturgical colors, and death. During Lent, we move from the burial symbolism of Ash Wednesday,

through Sundays devoid of the Gloria and the Alleluia response, to that terrible week of the arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

There is more to it than that, however. Lent was, and usually is, the one season above all that promotes prayer, scripture study and, in particular, opportunities for further education. Traditionally, Lent was the season in the early church when persons desiring to be received as Christians underwent the instruction necessary for this new life. To quote from the Book of Common Prayer, it was also the time when “people of notorious sins” were re-united, though intention and confession, with the greater body of the faithful.

But what I particularly enjoy about the season of Lent is that it seems to be the time of year when most Christians truly do examine their faith and address spiritual limitations. It often seems to me that, during Lent, Christians are more open to the greater breadth of spiritual experience and extend their treasured beliefs beyond a common template.

After my experience with the nurse, I started wearing my cassock every day during Lent, not only in church, but at the bank, the library, and even while standing in line at a fast food restaurant [like I said, I was a bachelor and ate like one]. I suppose it became a form of public witness to the season; a witness that was quickly recognized by the people with whom I interacted in the course of a day. That’s one of the benefits of ministry in a small town. While a few were a little nervous about it, most people would initiate conversation about spiritual matters, tell me what they and their congregations were doing during the season, and speak of prayer in as open a manner as I’ve ever seen.

Now I stopped wearing my cassock during

Lent several years ago, mostly after I read in the local newspaper that a police car had been dispatched to investigate reports of a man “dressed like a ninja” in the parking lot of a church. Since the parish was mine, I had a pretty good idea who had been spotted. However, I have found that still, in this season like no other, good people wish to question and stretch their sense of faith. Gloriously, they still want to speak of it as that which completes their lives. In that light, who could not favor a season such as this?

Father Clements

ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Meeting was held on Jan. 28 after the 10:30 service. We began with lunch and then moved on to the business portion of the afternoon.

Kitty Benedict and Jane Lipton retired from their Vestry positions and were thanked for their service. Martha Baer and Roy Bickley were elected as members of the Vestry Class of 2009. Tom Schindler will complete the remaining years of Jane Lipton’s terms. The current officers and delegates were re-elected to their positions.

Rob spoke briefly of his thoughts concerning a new ministry by all the parishioners at Trinity and promised to expand on those ideas in the near future.

Martha Baer recommended a dog show as a fund raiser and was (of course!) asked to chair same.

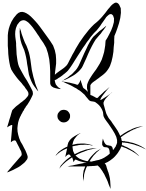


The congregation enthusiastically endorsed Rob’s recommendation for a series of outstanding speakers each year, the program to be named in honor of Robertson Alford.

DINNER AND A MOVIE



Our "Friday Night at the Movies" series made its debut on Jan. 26th with a potluck dinner and a viewing of *Desk Set* starring Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy. In attendance were 15 people and one dog, who apparently enjoyed the evening as much as the humans did!

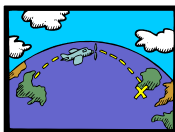


Our next potluck and movie night will be on Friday, Feb. 16 with *Harvey* starring Jimmy Stewart and Josephine Hull. For those too young to remember films made in 1950, *Harvey* is a six foot tall invisible white rabbit who happens to be Jimmy Stewart's best friend.

Please do join us! The food is fabulous, the company congenial and the movie marvelous.

If there is a particular film you would like to recommend, please speak to Linda or Alexis and we will see what we can do to screen it.

FROM JERUSALEM TO LAKEVILLE



No, you can't get a direct flight, and in fact there is no easy way to get from there to here, but we will spend six weeks tracing that path, beginning Feb. 4 after the coffee hour. Father Rob Clements will be our tour guide.

The series is an "Episcopal 101" class for inquirers and those who like expanding their knowledge of the faith to include little known facts, unexplained mysteries, and new SAT words. Each session will last about an hour.

We will meet after the coffee hour on Feb. 4, 11 and 25, and on March 4, 11 and 25. (the 18^{ths} are Vestry meeting days). Those wishing to be confirmed in the Episcopal church or presented to the Bishop this spring

should speak to the Vicar. Come and bring a friend!

LENT 2007

We will mark the opening of this season of prayer and penitence with a Shrove Tuesday Evensong on Feb. 20 at 6 pm.

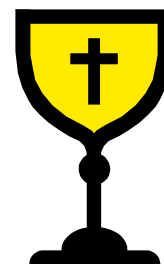


Following the service will be our traditional pancake and sausage supper in Walker Hall. There is no charge for the supper, but we will have a basket out for donations to Episcopal Relief and Development, the arm of the church providing care for people throughout the country and the world.

On Ash Wednesday, Feb 21, we will observe the Liturgy for Ash Wednesday with imposition of Ashes at 12:10 pm and again at 6:00 pm. Following the evening service we will have our time honored macaroni and cheese supper. Why macaroni and cheese on Ash Wednesday? Come and find out!

INSTRUCTED EUCHARIST

Every week we participate in the Holy Eucharist, but how many of us know that "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving"? On Feb 25 at the 10:30 service, learn about each part of the service and how it relates to the overall liturgy. No matter how long you have been an Episcopalian, you are sure to learn something new on the first Sunday of Lent this year. Let that be a good beginning to our Lenten journeys 2007.



WHO KNEW???

Trinity's chapter of Episcopal Church Women, better known as our ECW (and please remember that abbreviation, regardless of your gender), has been a mainstay of our parish since its very beginnings. Over the years, when the parish has faltered, our ECW ladies have carried on, and that is why we are more than 130 years old.

About 115 years after Trinity was founded, the world wide web, accompanied by search engines, came into existence. More recently, a media company called "Extreme Competitive Wrestling" began broadcasting wrestling matches on television. In time, Extreme Competitive Wrestling began to be called by its initials, ECW. (If those initials don't sound familiar to you, please reread the first paragraph of this story.)

And most recently, a young woman in Massachusetts who had been interested in athletic pursuits decided to go into professional wrestling for ECW (the media company). She decided to take the ring name of -- you guessed it -- Trinity!

Well, the unlikely combination of a page on the website of Trinity (the church) about our own ECW, Google, ECW (the media company), and Trinity (the lady wrestler) produced a veritable firestorm of web activity at <http://www.trinitylimerock.org/> as interested wrestling fans Googled "ECW Trinity" and were treated to a page of photos of our own ECW ladies setting up for a tag sale in Trinity Field. Our webmaster concluded, erroneously, that somehow our website had become positively magical -- until he looked a bit more critically at the suddenly-high level of activity, which in fact soon did abate. Perhaps we can take some consolation from a statement that Trinity (the lady wrestler) made when asked in an interview how she selected her ring name. She said "...it has that religious connotation; it never hurts to have that backing. God Bless."

And God Bless the ladies of Trinity's ECW!

— contributed by Geoff Brown

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