



TRINITY TIMES

APRIL 2007

Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Office Hours:
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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:

During Holy Week, which begins on the first of April, we will once again employ the liturgies and worship services that mark this particular time of the Christian year. We will wave palms, engage in the ritual of foot washing, strip the altar, carry a large wooden cross, mark the stations of Jesus' terrible way to the cross, and finally celebrate with his disciples as the resurrection is made known.



For those who have worshipped in the sacramental tradition all of their lives, this holiest of weeks causes us to experience anew the familiar rituals. For those new to the sacramental life, it is an opportunity to explore with deeper intention the inevitable pilgrim's path that leads from the frustration and despair of the crucifixion to the joy and marvel of resurrection and reunion. For all, it is a reminder that journeys of faith are not limited to the Israelites in the wilderness or pilgrims on their way to medieval Canterbury; it is something that can be known even within the boundaries of Lakeville.

In the 4th century, Cyril, who was one of the most important of the early church's theologians, served as the bishop of Jerusalem. As Christianity had now become "tolerated" in the Roman Empire, and as growing affluence and infrastructure enabled greater travel by a larger number of people, Easter pilgrimages to the Holy See were becoming more and more common. Unfortunately, this also meant that there were large numbers of people arriving in Jerusalem, ostensibly for holy reasons, who were getting into more and more mischief. Imagine a combination of Woodstock and New Orleans' Mardi Gras.

I have heard it said that for every liturgical action there is a good reason and a real reason. Thus, it is likely that it was Cyril who originally instituted the liturgical forms for the days

of Holy Week so that the pilgrims would not only be engaged in the holiness of the place and season, but also so that they would be reminded of the purpose of their pilgrimage. These Jerusalem practices became popular and were spread to other churches throughout the Empire by the returning pilgrims. In time, a collection of liturgies meant not only to heighten the importance of a season but to control boisterous mobs became those services which marked for all worshippers everywhere the high point of the Christian year.

While our seasonal passions may not be as unruly as a collection of 4th century pilgrims, not even during “March Madness”, the lasting importance of the liturgies of Holy Week is such that even those with a tangential acquaintance with routine worship find themselves in the place of welcome, hospitality and re-birth. In that, as in everything offered in our tradition, and particularly at Trinity Church, we hope that all who worship find some aid, comfort, and companionship on whatever pilgrimage they manifest.

Father Clements

THANKS TO ALL!



As our Easter outreach project, we have gathered food baskets, gift cards and vouchers. These offerings will be blessed on Palm Sunday and conveyed to Salisbury Family Services, which will distribute them to needy families in the area.

We are gratified that so many parishioners participate in these outreach programs to benefit our less fortunate brothers and sisters, and extend thanks to Outreach Chair Cheryl Duntz for her role in coordinating this ministry.

Thanks too to all those who make our Easter celebration as beautiful as it is each year—Christine and the choir, the altar guild and the flower committee, all the worship assistants and the myriad of lectors, epistlers and ushers who offer their talents

to the glory of God and benefit of the congregation.

SAVING YOUR KITCHEN



One of the best loved Easter traditions is the dyeing of Easter eggs, a practice relating back to pagan times when eggs were seen as a symbol of new life.

During the early years of Christianity, eggs were often the first food eaten after the Lenten fasting from eggs and meat.

One of the biggest messes our children and grandchildren can wreak upon our kitchens (other than making Christmas cookies) is the dyeing of the above mentioned eggs.

Trinity Church to the rescue! Geoff Brown and Alexis Dorf will be on hand to supply both eggs and dye (parishioners supply the children) on Saturday, April 7 from 10-11 am in the Sunday School room. All children, grandchildren, godchildren and neighbor children are welcome (as well as the young at heart!). Please RSVP to Geoff at 860-824-0640 or geoff@betweenthe lakes.com so that we will have sufficient ingredients on hand to meet demand.

EFM—IT'S NOT YOUR MOTHER'S BIBLE STUDY!



The members of the Education for Ministry group invite all parishioners to an open house on Wednesday, April 11 from 3:30 to 5:30 in the library.

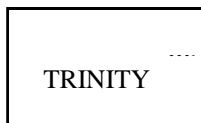
EFM has nothing to do with seminary preparation or ordination. It does, however, provide over the four years of the program, a seminary education in theology.

Through study of scripture, church history and 20th century theology, members begin to relate theological themes such as sin, atonement, resurrection and reconciliation to God and one another as found in scripture, poetry, music and art to these same themes in our own lives. In many ways, we

are learning how to *live* Christianity, not just *about* Christianity—and there is definitely a difference between the two!

For further information, please speak to MaryAnne Carley at 860-364-5652 or macarley@sbcglobal.net

THE ENVELOPE(S), PLEASE



New IRS regulations will make it more difficult to deduct cash contributions to non profit organizations.

For parishioners who regularly make cash donations to the offering plate, the option of using envelopes will make sense.

When you receive your year's supply of Sunday envelopes, you are assigned a number so that the treasurer knows from whom the cash is coming. At the end of the year, you receive from Trinity a summary of your donations for the year, and these can be a part of your tax return package.

Envelopes are available from Alexis Dorf at alexisdorf@sbcglobal.net or 860-364-0816.

SPRING IS SPRUNG!

Spring is sprung
The grass is riz
I wonder when
Trinity's clean up day is...

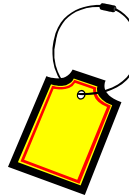
Buildings and Grounds chair Judy Brown invites parishioners to bring rakes, gloves and other grounds cleaning equipment to our annual clean up day Saturday, April 28 at 9:30 am (rain date May 5, 9:30 am). Coffee and doughnuts will get us all started!



IT'S NOT TOO SOON...

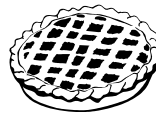
... to note on your calendar that the American Boy Choir will be presenting a concert at Trinity on Tuesday evening, May 22. This special event will be a treat for the entire Northwest Corner, so please plan to come and bring friends and neighbors.

Event coordinator Tom Schindler will need homes for the boys to stay overnight; please contact Tom at 860-435-9961 or schindler-thomas@yahoo.com if you can take 2 boys in your home.



...to start collecting items of interest for the Memorial Day weekend Giant Tag and Bake Sale! Ginny Dildine will welcome contributions in Walker Hall any time after May 13. Books and gently used furniture in particular are wanted! No clothes, shoes or pocketbooks, please!

Remember the Tag Sale motto: "If it belongs at the transfer station, please take it there directly!" Items in good condition are welcome; however, if it is too "junky" for you to want it in your house, no one else wants it in theirs either!



Alice Tweed will be signing us up for Bake Sale contributions that day. If the weather is favorable, we are likely to have cyclists come by at lunch time, so lots of sandwiches will be needed. Cookies, pies and other confections are popular as well.



...to clean off your kids' soccer cleats! Geoff Brown and his coaches will be offering Trinity's third year of Sunday Summer Soccer beginning June 10 during the 10:30 service. Worship with the players is included in the program, as is attendance at Holy Eucharist in the church for those wishing to participate.

Trinity soccer t-shirts will again be provided for players and coaches. Neighborhood friends and school mates of our children are of course welcome to join the group! For further information, speak to Geoff.

THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR

Earlier in my spiritual journey, whenever I questioned something that seemed to me patently ridiculous or impossible, some well meaning fellow Christian would tell me that, as a Christian, I had to accept the idea “on faith”. As a result, I have had some “issues” as they say, with the subject of faith.

If “Christian faith” means literal acceptance of some of the stories and events related in scripture --- well, I’m definitely lacking in it. I simply don’t believe that God expects me to override the reason and intelligence with which I have been endowed to accept things that make no sense.

However, much to my joy, I have found that people a whole lot smarter and theologically sophisticated than I don’t buy into that earlier definition either. Karen Armstrong, for instance, notes in *The Spiral Staircase*, that “religion is not about accepting twenty impossible propositions before breakfast, but about doing things that change you”. Marcus Borg says that faith is “radical trust” and reminds us that the words “belief” and “belove” are related. Faith, he says additionally, is about “beloving God”. Our creeds, the expression of our beliefs, then simply assert that we give our hearts (“credo”) to God the Creator, and God as manifested in Jesus and in the Holy Spirit. That concept makes the creeds something I can live with—well, mostly.

So, at this Eastertide, I am focused on a definition of faith that makes sense to me, and considering the proposition that radical trust in a God who loves me without limit indeed has the possibility of changing me. I expect that such change may include opening my heart more to *seeing* the world around me as well as simply looking at it. I also imagine that it may lead me further towards becoming a Christian, one who loves what God loves, even when what God loves doesn’t appear particularly loveable to me. Ultimately, perhaps, the goal is to become as fully human as possible, and in that place, to begin to find the divine within myself.

- Alexis Dorf

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ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED