



TRINITY TIMES
JULY/AUGUST 2007
Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
484 Lime Rock Rd.
Lakeville, CT 06039
Telephone: 860.435.2627
Fax: 860.435.4794
www.trinitylimerock.org
trinity@trinitylimerock.org

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

Denise Lancto
Sunday School

Lisa Brennan, *Bookkeeper*
Jeff Silvernale, *Grounds*
Junior Wright, *Sexton*
Alexis Dorf, *Trinity Times*

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK:

The third portion of our stewardship series will conclude in the September issue of the Trinity Times. For reasons that are entirely personal, I offer the following article, one that I first published many years ago, for this summer's edition.



It arrives every summer. It's a package that is usually mailed from a beachfront community somewhere along the Atlantic coast. It depends on where my parents are in the summer. It's a heavy package. I always forget that it's coming, although I'm not sure why, since it is an annual event. In the package is a container (it's different every year; sometimes it's a used soda bottle, sometimes an inexpensive thermos) filled with seawater.

It is, as anyone would agree, a strange gift to receive. Certainly my wife felt that way the first summer of our marriage when she got to the mail before I did. "Your mother sent us some...water, I think." Seawater doesn't travel well in the heat. It grows things during transit. Maybe that's the point. The reason that she sends it to me, and has done so for as long as I've lived away from home, is because of August 15th. Actually, that's the secular date. On the church calendar, it's the Feast of the Assumption of St. Mary the Virgin. On that day, all of the seawater in the world is considered holy water. It is an old European custom and, as my father jokingly reminds me, my mother is an old European. Once a year, she travels to the ocean, steps into the water, fills containers for my siblings, my nieces, my nephew, and me. We get them right before the beginning of the school year (as I'm from a family of educators, the new year begins in September) as reminders of...something.

The connection of water and holiness is ancient and complicated. As with water, God is the key element of our being.



God is necessary for our life and present with us in a multiplicity of forms. And, as with water so with God, things grow in the relationship. To this day, in sea-

shore areas around the continent of Europe, families make their pilgrimage to the Atlantic or the Mediterranean. While others run into the water in recreation, Christians do so on the Feast of the Assumption as part of their spiritual re-creation. They seek to be reminded of the ways in which we are borne by God; immersed in the great, deep, and liberating mystery. They find themselves, as we all do, afloat on grace; ever present, ever abiding, and all surrounding. Perhaps the relationship between humans and the sea was best captured by the author Joseph Conrad who, before he became one of the greatest writers in the English language, was a commercial ship's captain. He once wrote "...the sea is a mystery, deep and impenetrable. We are borne on it, knowing it as impassive yet passionate. We can never completely know it as we cannot completely know the Almighty."

This year it's a soda bottle sealed with duct



tape. In a filtered state, it will be part of the holy water that I use in baptisms and at the Great Vigil of Easter. I do this to honor the feast day and because there are occasions when I

need to be reminded of the unfolding mystery that surrounds us and the grace that supports.

Also, it's because, as I am reminded every year at this time, things grow in it.

Father Rob



SUNDAY SOCCER

Our Trinity Sunday Soccer program continues under the guidance of soccer coordinator Geoff Brown and Hotchkiss coach Richard Kirby. The first Sunday of July over 40

children and adults were on the field for instruction and scrimmage! In fact, we have had so many parishioners, friends and neighbors joining us that it has been necessary to place a second order for this year's t-shirts!

After soccer is over for the day, participants join the congregation in church for Holy Eucharist, or if preferred, a simple blessing at the altar. Age appropriate children's worship bulletins are available at the coffee hour to take home and read during the week.

REMINDERS



Please stay current with your annual pledge to Trinity! Summer is the time our treasurer's office hits a dry spell, and it is particularly important we remember that even when we are on vacation, Trinity (and the monthly bills!) is not.



The ECW is sponsoring a summer reading table in the Guild Room. Pick up something to take with you on vacation! A payment box is on the table. Finished with a book you aren't likely to read again? Drop it off at this on going book sale.



People are hungry year round, not just at Thanksgiving! Pick up some rice, cereal, cooking oil, canned vegetables or fruit the next time you go grocery shopping and then bring it on Sunday and place it in the basket next to the Baptismal Font. Your food donation to OWLs kitchen is a prayer of thanksgiving for the food on your own table.



Our annual "See you in September!" Labor Day picnic will be held Saturday Sept. 2nd at 6:00. Al Dorf will be grilling steaks and parishioners supply the sides. Mark your calendar today!

THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR



The idea of a “rule of life” is an old one. St. Benedict’s is perhaps the most well known; it has guided countless women and men for over 1500 years. I recently came across an interview – I forget with whom and where I read it – in which the interviewee said that she had four guidelines for her life:

Show up on time
Pay attention
Tell the truth
Let go of the outcome

I rather liked that concept, jotted it down on a post-it and stuck it on my computer monitor – along with 3 other wise sayings by people smarter than I and a florist’s card that says “You’re right; you are **THE** mom”.

Show up on time – our vicar now imposes a “late charge” on weddings that take place way later than the hour for which they were scheduled. As usher on many Sunday mornings, I note that a significant percentage of our congregation wanders in well after the liturgy is underway. Where we used to live, a dinner invitation for 6 pm meant no one would show up before 7 at the earliest – and sometimes later. And let’s not even think about when the average appliance repair person puts in an appearance when the householder has been told – “somewhere between 8 and noon”. Being late for an occasion or appointment, is to my mind, just plainly rude and indicates a lack of respect for the person or event attended. Being on time says: *“I value your time as much as my own”*.

Pay attention – I think this comes under the general category of “mindfulness”, or “being in the moment”. It certainly does not encompass multitasking! One cannot both check email and talk meaningfully on the phone concurrently – and indeed, recent research indicates that our minds, no matter how evolved, can do only one thing at a time and do it well (and I find this is particularly true when I am simultaneously trying to recite

the Nicene creed and plan dinner). Again, to give someone or something one’s whole attention is a gift. When I meet with my spiritual director, there is no communication device of any kind in the room- no computer, no pager, no cell phone, no intercom – nothing to distract either of us from the task at hand. Focusing one’s total consciousness on only one area is not easy; it is a skill that takes time and effort to develop, and to be the beneficiary of such concentration is one most of us experience far too infrequently. Paying attention says: *“you – or this task - are special”*.

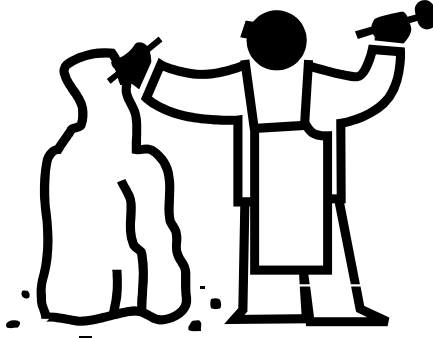
Tell the truth - I increasingly believe that truth is often told only when it is expedient to do so. We worry about offending others if we call it as we see it. We consider the cost to ourselves financially or socially if we speak honestly. We know that if we are whistleblowers we stand to lose our jobs and the benefits that have accrued to us. In short, telling the truth may simply be too expensive. And yet...and yet. How do we look in the mirror in the morning, how do we set an example of a principled life for our children and grandchildren if we are not truth-tellers, no matter the cost? Telling the truth says: *“ My integrity is more important to me than my popularity”*.

Let go of the outcome- This is the toughest one for a control freak like me. I want to fix everything for everyone and have all my efforts rewarded by the emergence of the exact outcome that I had in mind. It’s hard to accept that all we can do is give our undertakings, whatever they may be, our best shot – and that’s it. Whether it is raising a child, planting a garden, baking a pie or serving on a work group or committee, that’s all that we can give – our best offering. Letting go of the outcome says: *“ I have given this my best effort, and I trust that things will turn out as they should, even if the outcome is not my first choice, and I can live with that”*.

Do you have a Rule of Life? What does it look like?

Alexis Dorf

TRINITY ANNUAL ART SHOW



12 NOON—4 PM
AUGUST 25—SEPTEMBER 3

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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