



# TRINITY TIMES

## OCTOBER 2007

### Trinity Episcopal Church

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Linda Lloyd  
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Geoffrey Brown  
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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:

#### EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP PART 1



My niece, Amanda, who worked for Trinity Church as an office and ministry intern this past summer, is a sophomore at a liberal arts college in upstate New York traditionally affiliated with the Episcopal Church and named for one of our most historically prominent evangelists and bishops. She called me a few weeks ago from her college bookstore. She had enrolled in an "Introduction to Christianity" course and needed to find some textbooks. As she was late enrolling in the course, some of the textbooks were sold out at the bookstore. In a moment of surprising frugality, she was checking to see if I had any copies so that she could save some money.

I had one of texts and said I'd send it along. Then she asked me, "Do you think I should have a Bible for this course?"

"A Bible isn't one of the texts for a course on Christianity?" I asked.

"Well, it's not required. I just thought it would be good to have, don't you think?"

You probably know my answer to that question. There was then a moment of silence in which I contemplated the on-noble tradition of intellectual inquiry that was a common part of our Anglican/Episcopal form of Christianity. Either that or I was a little dazed.

To be fair, I thought the required textbooks for the course were pretty good; in one case, even inspired. It's just that, maybe, one could expect, in a college-level course introducing a religion, especially the religion that birthed the college,

the sacred literature of that religion would be a required text. I learned later in our conversation that the college bookstore didn't have any copies of the Holy Bible at all.

If you stand in the chancel of Trinity Church on Wall Street, where he is buried, you might feel the college's founder spinning in his grave.

Once upon a time, the Episcopal Church, its affiliated schools and colleges, and especially its parishes, were centers of lively learning; institutions that were able to embrace our Anglican heritage, create a deep and abiding faith, and, through disciplined intellect and industry, encourage people to engage in good works in all aspects of our society and its culture, well grounded in the life of the Spirit. This sense of purpose was not limited only to those who were Episcopal, of course, or even Christian. In fact, the list of men and women of diversity and accomplishment who were educated through the Episcopal Church is beyond impressive.

Now we've reached a point where Episcopal-affiliated college bookstores don't carry Bibles, introductory courses in Christianity don't require the reading of sacred literature, and college chaplaincy programs offer as their chief feature, as I read on the college's website, opportunities "to drink tea, talk, and reflect." I guess college life has changed some since my day. I don't recall it being that...sedentary.

Actually, all of what I've mentioned thus far is really about stewardship and its relationship to being an educated Christian. Education, both formal and experiential, was a key feature of our church's witness for much of its history. Because of the emphasis on education, in parishes as well as in schools and colleges, we served as able stewards of a tradition and history that ably accommodated societal change and broadening cultural expectations.

Unfortunately, somewhere along the line, it seems we became stewards of a God who is nothing but an intellectual construct, matched with a Son whose actions are merely symbolic. I'm not sure what that

makes the Holy Spirit. When that happened, not only did our educational life begin to disintegrate, but our sense of stewardship flattened into what seems limited and mercenary in its common understanding. Stewardship became about money and nothing else. We went from a community of people who built charitable endowments, organizations and foundations, along with educational institutions, hospitals, and churches of remarkable beauty and taste, to a wan few who drink tea and reflect. Good Lord.

Next month, we will look at the true nature of stewardship and its relationship to congregational education and see what we may do, in our own small way, to reverse this unfortunate contemporary trend and enable a true, and very active, Gospel message.

*Father Rob*

## THE FEAST OF ST FRANCIS



On October 7 we will celebrate the feast of one of the most beloved of all Saints, Francis of Assisi (that's him with the bird, out in the children's garden near the courtyard).

The Blessing of the Animals is our annual marking of the commonality of all life, and we are invited to bring our animal companions, leashed, caged or otherwise under control, to Trinity at the 10:30 service for a special blessing. Our coffee hour will even feature species specific treats!

If your critter is too big to bring into the church, the blessing will be offered in the field following the service.

## THANKS!

We are grateful to Geoff and Judy Brown for the underwriting of the painting of the outside of the Guild Room. Now our church looks "all of a piece" on the exterior, as well as being protected from the elements of our New England seasons.

## ROBERTSON ALFORD MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES



For our first lecture series this year, parishioner Lynn Gaffney, AIA, will host a three part program entitled *Domestic Green: Helping the Environment Starts at Home*.

The first meeting will be Friday, Oct. 12 when we will view and discuss *Green: the New Red, White, and Blue* the acclaimed documentary by prize winning New York Times editorial writer Thomas Friedman.

On Friday Nov. 9, Lynn will present "*Green Economy and Home: Residential Construction*".

The final installment will be Dec. 7 and is entitled *Green Acres: One Meter at a Time*. The speakers will be local sustainable gardener Gaye Parise and her associates.

All meetings begin at 7 pm. Refreshments will be served.

Stewardship of the environment is an important and timely topic. Please join us as we learn more about how we can care for the world that we have been given!



## FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

We will resume our monthly potluck supper and film series on Friday, October 19 at 6 pm. By request, we will show *Harvey*, a movie starring Jimmy Stewart and an invisible (to everyone but Jimmy) rabbit!

Plan to join us that evening, and feel free to bring neighbors and friends! We eat at 6:00 and start the film about 6:45, so we are all done and on the way home by 9:00. If you have a favorite movie, please tell one of the wardens and we will see if we can find it. Even better is if you have it and can lend it to Trinity for the evening!

## VICAR'S ADULT FORUM

Ever wonder why we do what we do during the liturgy, and what all those words actually mean? Join us as we explore *Liturgy as Metaphor* on Sundays Oct. 7 and 14 after the 10-:30 service.

At our first meeting, we talked about myth and the characteristics of the hero. What do Jesus and Luke Skywalker have in common? Come and find out—no reservations required!

## BOOK GROUP



*The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering the Life of Faith* by Marcus Borg will be the subject of discussion on the first three Sundays in November after the 10:30 service.

For those among us who are searching for a faith that satisfies both heart and head, a faith that makes sense not requiring us to assent to concepts that we find difficult, if not impossible, to accept, Borg offers a way forward.

Books may be ordered from Amazon through the vicar's blog, [www.trinitylimerock.blogspot.com](http://www.trinitylimerock.blogspot.com). or at a local bookstore.

For further information, speak with Keith Nolan, the series coordinator, at 860-435-2567.

## ALSO COMING UP...

On Sunday, Nov. 4 we will celebrate the Feast of All Saints. Parishioners wishing to make gifts of memorial flowers commemorating loved ones can send donations (not required, but welcomed!) to the office with **flower memorials** on the memo line. That will ensure that your check is credited to the flower committee and not the general fund! Please also include the names of those commemorated so that they may be included in the prayers that morning.

## FEED A FAMILY OF FOUR FOR A DAY



Our annual Thanksgiving Food collection for the OWLs kitchen will be held again this year. Grocery bags with suggested menu items will be distributed on Sunday, Nov. 4 and collected, blessed and taken to the Kitchen on Nov. 11.

We are greatly blessed in that we all have enough to eat. Too many of our brothers and sisters in the Northwest Corner lack the resources that we do for healthy meals, and it is our privilege to be able to provide for their needs from our substance.

Foods that are low in sugar, salt and fat are particularly needed, with cooking oil and canned fruit being especially welcomed!

## FROM THE ECW

To the women of Trinity Church:

The Episcopal Church Women or ECW of which every woman of the church is a member has always been an important arm of Trinity Church since its organization in 1919 and was known as The Ladies Auxiliary. Later the name was changed to Episcopal Church Women and we become part of many ECW's that made up the Diocese of CT.

For nearly a century our women have worked to support the church and vestry in all their endeavors. From the first group organizing chicken and oyster suppers in the old Casino building down the street to the first "rummage" sale held May 2, 1959 in the Salisbury Town Hall, to the present Christmas Bazaar and Spring Tag Sale, funds have been raised for whatever the need at Trinity or elsewhere.

The famous Salisbury Antiques Fair and Fall Festival began in 1956 and with the other town churches joining in 1960; it became a huge annual event until 1996, when it be-

came part of the Fall Festival and held first in the Salisbury town hall and later on the lawn of the White Hart Inn. This was in the days before every town and club had an antiques or craft fair and people would come from quite a distance to enjoy the weekend.

On June 17, 1961 our first rummage sale was held on a Falls Village parishioner's lawn. The next year it moved to the church and has been a yearly event ever since.

The first monthly coffee hour began August 9, 1960 prepared by the ECW and later under the guidance of Father William Holcomb it became a weekly event.

We have provided luncheons, dinners and teas for various activities in the church. We keep the kitchen provided with many supplies and have purchased a number of large ticket items for the church over the years. We have purchased tables, chairs and appliances to name a few.

We enjoy the fellowship of our meetings and working alongside our friends to support our church. We can accomplish much more together than by working singly. With this in mind we would like to offer a challenge to the women of Trinity Church.

Will you join us? Could you find time to help us continue our heritage at Trinity?

If we changed our monthly luncheon meetings to a monthly tea at 4 pm on a weekday, would you be able to join us?

If you can answer yes, or if you need more information, please speak to President Ginny Dildine or Secretary Trudy Washburn at coffee hour. Or call them at home: Ginny is at 860-824-7455 or Trudy at 860 824-5894.

## PLANNING (WAY!) AHEAD!

It has come to the attention of the Wardens and Vicar that many among us do not have written, specific instructions concerning the funeral or memorial services that all of us will eventually need.

In response, Rob has created a single sheet funeral plan in which our wishes for that service can be detailed. This document can be changed or revised at any time, and will be kept on file at Trinity.

The sheet is available on the table at the back of the church; please speak with Rob about any questions you may have.

Trinity Church records with sorrow the death of Edward Kidder Meade Jr., father of Susanna Read on September 17,2007.

*May his soul, and the souls of all departed, rest in peace.*

## THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR



Ah, it's that time of the year again, that season when churches begin the annual fall beg-a-thon in order to fund the following year's budget. I suspect that the only phrase which strikes more terror into the average church goer's heart than "stewardship program" is the phrase "Internal Revenue audit".

Any I lay that fault squarely at the feet of our churches, which talk about stewardship only in its financial aspect and only mention the dreaded "S word" when they want money. And *that* is bad stewardship!!

**STEWARDSHIP IS WHAT WE DO,  
WITH WHAT WE HAVE,  
ALL THE TIME.**

A steward is one who has responsibility for something that does not belong to her; thus, there are many kinds of stewardship. Parishioner Lynn Gaffney, AIA, will host a three part program on environmental stewardship this fall. There is stewardship of our bodies (the temples of the Lord, as St. Paul reminds us), stewardship of our time, stewardship of our relationships with others,

stewardship of those gifts which God has given each of us not only for our own use, but for the benefit of the community. (Suppose our great parish cooks and bakers cooked and baked only for themselves instead of our congregation? Perish the thought!)

Most of us have no trouble when we are asked to donate some of our time or our abilities to the common good. But money? As Shakespeare said someplace, "Ah, there's the rub". Why is that people become anxious and even *grumpy and contentious* when they are enjoined to return to God a portion of what is God's to begin with?

I think the obvious answer is that we are afraid that if we let go of some of our financial treasure, we won't have "enough". We live in the richest culture that has ever existed, and yet we are a culture of scarcity, a culture that has turned consumption into a god. We are bombarded by 5000+ ads every day, each telling us we are unworthy and unlovable as we are. However, the remedy is close at hand! Buy the recommended product – which is, of course, in short supply so buy it *now* - and we will be instantly changed into the kinds of people everyone wants to know. We are pushed to consume to the point where we ourselves are consumed by consumption. And as we all know, no sooner have we acquired the much desired object of our dreams...than something else comes along that we just have to have. We simply can't win.

But there is an out to this crazy merry-go-round. And that solution is to claim our vocation as the beloved children of God, not as consumers. Remember that the God who knit you together before you were born, the God who has inscribed your name on his palms, the God who has counted the hairs on your head, is fully aware of your needs and guarantees that everything you *need* will be supplied.



How much are we to let go of ? That wasn't even a question in either the Old or New Testament. The standard for giving was –

and is – the tithe, or 10%. There is a well kept secret about the tithe and you are about to read it right here in the *Trinity Times*.

Here's the secret: the tithe is a gift, not just to the God from whom all blessings flow, but to the tither. I have never, ever, met a tither who said she didn't have enough. Somehow, God's spirit acts on tithers in such a way that they quit needing so much stuff because they realize they *already have* everything that they really, truly need. The rest are "nice to haves". Some of them we come by in time, and some we don't. And somehow, it doesn't matter. We have the knowledge that we are God's beloved children, living in relationship with a beloved community, and that knowledge offers us the safety and security that portfolios, SUVs and gated communities can never truly guarantee.

*Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of Hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. Malachi 3:10*

My own experience has truly been that – I have received more blessings that I could have imagined in my wildest dreams since beginning to tithe, not the least of which is relief from anxiety about money issues! I invite you to claim those blessings, to discover the truth of the secret of the tithe for yourselves.

Alexis Dorf

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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