



TRINITY TIMES

JANUARY 2008

Trinity Episcopal Church

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Office Hours:
Tues.—Fri.
10 am –1 pm

The Rev. Dr. Robert Clements
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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:



I thought I had forgotten something. In all of the Christmas hubbub, what with four sermons and two homilies offered in one week, I did forget that we had an issue of the Trinity Times due.

So, as I have little left to say [that is, if I ever have anything of pith to say in the Times], I did want to give an overview of some of our accomplishments over the past year and offer a glimpse of what's planned for the near future.

First, I was delighted with the inaugural presentation of the Robertson Alford Lecture Series, as offered by Lynn Gaffney and covering three presentations about aspects of responsible environmental awareness. Lynn's individual presentation, which was the second of the three, was of particular interest to those of us who find ourselves in a perpetual renovation cycle.

In the coming spring season, Jim Conzo will offer the second Robertson Alford Lecture Series offering concerning issues of personal wellness. I am indebted to both Lynn and Jim for seeing this series through its first full year.

Second, the successful conclusion of the purchase of the former Trinity Field marked a new sense of community participation and social responsibility as the vestry began to explore possible uses for the nearly nine acres. Because of his foresight and contribution, we have re-named the field in honor of Bob Reid. While we still have ample space for our summer soccer program and our continued openness to events that require a large parking facility, the consensus is that we should contemplate bold outreach possibilities for this addi-

tion to our common ministry.

Third, while it is not always a measure of Gospel-oriented success, I am happy to report that our Sunday attendance increased by 18% during 2007. Even summer attendance was higher than it has been in past years. More importantly, we welcomed some new members to our congregation and look forward to the addition of their energy and prayerfulness to our common life.

Fourth, we have, through Denise Lancto's continued efforts and those of many of our Trinity parents, restored the Sunday School program. That alone is worth a year's worth of celebration.

2007 was envisioned as the first of three transitional years for Trinity Church, as we discover a newer, more resonant definition for small parish ministry. While we have instituted new programs, embraced new possibilities, improved our budget and become more responsible in administrative procedures, there is still much more work to do. As I hope is becoming obvious, this cannot be the work of just a handful of parishioners. If there is anything of substance to accomplish in 2008, perhaps it could be the continued growth of volunteerism, as it is in this area in particular that Christians have, from our earliest history, served our community and our world.

Father Rob

THANKS!



Thanks to all those whose participation in the Christmas pageant, the Christmas services and our Christmas outreach program made Christmas 2007 the memorable occasion that it was. Musicians, worship assistants, flower arrangers, hospitality hosts — all of us brought our best selves to the season and thus made it a joy for all who came to Trinity for whatever occasion.

COMING UP!

After a hiatus for the holiday season, the **men's group** will resume its monthly evening meetings on Wednesday, Jan. 17. The group meets at 6 pm at Trinity and then goes to a local restaurant for dinner and a evening of general "hanging out". Please call Geoff Brown at 860-824-0640 for further details

The **Annual Meeting** will take place on Sunday, Jan. 27 after the later service. A light luncheon will be served. Please plan to attend as we review the accomplishments of the last year and discuss where we will go from here.

Can you believe it? We will have barely put away the Christmas ornaments when **Ash Wednesday** will be upon us! We will share our traditional pancake supper on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 6 pm and offer the Ash Wednesday liturgy on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7 pm.



THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR

At this year's Annual Meeting, I will retire from my position as Junior Warden. For the last nine years (since Rob's first sojourn with us!) I have served as a Vestry member, Clerk, or Warden, and it is time for me to step back and pass my responsibilities to another. Part of being a member of any community is sharing in the care of that group, and I found that to be both energizing and exhausting, fun and frustrating, all at the same time.

So what will I be doing with my newfound "free" time? I have increased my work at the Diocesan level in the areas of Stewardship and the Safe Church program, so that will continue. I am also beginning a two year program to become certified as a spiritual director, a very old Christian tradition now finding new life and adherents. And of course, I will continue editing the Trinity Times and my participation in parish life at Trinity.

Alexis Dorf

PRAYERS OF THE STRESS IMPAIRED

Lord, help me to relax about insignificant details beginning tomorrow at 7:41:23 am e.s.t.

God, help me to consider people's feelings, even if most of them ARE hypersensitive.

God, help me to take responsibility for my own actions, even though they're usually NOT my fault.

God, help me to not try to RUN everything. But, if You need some help, please feel free to ASK me!

Lord, help me to be more laid back and help me to do it EXACTLY right.

God help me to take things more seriously, especially laughter, parties, and dancing.

God give me patience, and I mean right NOW!

Lord help me not be a perfectionist. (Did I spell that correctly?)

God, help me to finish everything I sta

God, help me to keep my mind on one th-Look a bird-ing at a time.

God, help me to do only what I can, and trust you for the rest. And would you mind putting that in writing?

Lord, keep me open to others' ideas, WRONG though they may be.

Lord, help me be less independent, but let me do it my way.

Lord, help me follow established procedures today. On second thought, I'll settle for a few minutes.

Lord, help me slow down andnotrushthroughwhatIdo. Amen

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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