



TRINITY TIMES

FEBRUARY 2008

Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Office Hours:
Tues.—Fri.
10 am –1 pm

The Rev. Dr. Robert Clements
Vicar

Linda Lloyd
Senior Warden
Roy Bickley
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 want to do something new with the adult forums and I need your participation and aid. I know one of the things always appreciated in sermons is learning of the sociological context of the scripture lesson. Since so much of what Jesus taught and of which Paul speaks was dependent on events and circumstances that were contemporary to them, and since agricultural economies as well as references to monarchies and pantheistic deities are remote from us, there is much greater meaning that can be gleaned if we learn of scripture in its original, and thematic, regard.

So, beginning on the First Sunday in Lent, we will start a new form of Bible study that will also take into account the day-to-day realities of those originally addressed. We will begin with the earliest scripture in the New Testament: The epistles, or letters, known to be written by Paul. As these were written before the Gospels, they are wondrous records not only of First Century Christianity, but also of common social concerns, idiom, politics, and social groups.

There will be little extra reading as part of this class. Naturally, specific passages from Paul's letters will be offered for each Sunday, beginning with his Epistle to the Romans, but these will be manageable and usually of no greater length than a chapter. Additionally, there will be a one page selection from some study of First Century sociology or commentary on the references used in the passage under study. All materials will be available on the Sunday before the specific class meeting so everyone may be prepared.

Again, we will begin on Sunday, February 10th after the conclusion of the 10:30 service.



To follow up on something to which I referred during the Vicar's annual report, John Lloyd, Bob Reid, and I are designing and building an *altar of repose* to be placed in the area adjacent to the chancel that used to house the organ pipes. Despite its name, the altar of repose is not an altar in the traditional sense, but is instead a large, free-standing shelf that may hold consecrated sacrament, objects of veneration, and works of holy writ. It is also an area where we may place the currently unused choir pews. It is my hope that we can offer this as a position for quiet prayer and, at appropriate times, the reception of the sacraments of unction and reconciliation.

Speaking of choir pews, the new chairs for the choir are currently being constructed by R. Geissler, Inc. and there is a strong possibility that we will be able to have them in place by Easter Sunday. I know this is good news not only for the choir, but also for those who haven't the highest regard for the aesthetic appeal of the utilitarian Samsonite metal folding chairs currently in use. Photos of the Geissler chairs may be found on the Vicar's weblog along with a link to photos of churches currently using their chairs.

To quote from the R. Geissler catalog, "It has been noted by many Choir Directors and Organ Builders that R. Geissler Solid oak Choir Chairs with Rush Seats are the most acceptable chair. R. Geissler chairs are known not only for comfort & quality, but also for keeping choirs in a perfect sitting position, and last but not least for their acoustical value."

The new chairs are offered as gifts in loving memory of Holly Reid.

Father Rob



2008 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was convened after the 10:30 service on January 27. The following were elected to serve on the Vestry.

Senior Warden—Linda Lloyd
Junior Warden—Roy Bickley
Clerk—Geoff Brown
Treasurer—Martha Nesbitt

Vestry Class of 2008— Mary Anne Carley, Tom Schindler
Vestry Class of 2009—Martha Baer, Al Dorf (replacing Roy Bickley)
Vestry Class of 2010—Jane Canfield, Bob Reid
Convention Delegate—Tom Schindler
Alternate Convention Delegate—Geoff Brown
Deanery Delegate—Mary Anne Carley

After acceptance of the various reports, the focus of the meeting turned to possible uses for Reid Field. It was noted that our intention must be that of good stewards, the sharing of our blessing with others.

Suggestions for use of the field included middle income housing, a concert hall, a community garden/farmers market venue, a place for a summer music camp, a corn maze, recreational use (soccer, jogging/biking tracks) in line with our sports and recreation ministry, placement of solar collectors in hopes of getting "off the grid" and perhaps selling the excess electricity, and leaving the field open for parking as well as simple aesthetic pleasure.

Arete Warren moved to empower the Vicar to create a long range planning committee to consider and evaluate these and other alternatives. The motion passed with Rob noting that no project would be undertaken without consulting with the congregation first.



THE LENTEN SEASON

Trinity will mark the beginning of the Lenten season with the Office of Evensong and the traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner beginning at 6 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 5. There is no cost for the dinner, but a freewill offering will be taken for the OWLs Kitchen.



Shrove Tuesday is also known in parts of the world as Mardi Gras, (“fat Tuesday”) and is part of the Carnivale (“good bye, meat”) celebration. As Lent is a period of

fasting during which, traditionally, only the plainest foods were to be eaten, the making of pancakes and doughnuts was an efficient way to use up sugar, milk, eggs and other “rich” foods in the household.

The word “shrove” is the past tense of “shrive” or the practice of confession, absolution and penance which was expected of Christians as they entered into the Lenten season.

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6, the Eucharist will be celebrated with the imposition of ashes at 7 pm.

As noted in the Vicar’s message, we will begin a new form of Bible study on February 10, after the 10:30 service. The forum will continue through Lent, with the exception of Feb. 17 (Vestry meeting) and Palm Sunday, March 16.

GONE MISSING!!

At the back of the church is a large box of offering envelopes some of which had names on them, and some not.



If you took an unassigned box, please notify the office with your name and the box number. If we don’t have your name, we can’t associate it with a number in order to credit your donation.

THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR



When I get interested in something, I **really** get interested in it—just ask my long suffering family and friends!

My current focus—obsession, some might call it—is why Christians believe what they do. I am in my third year of the EFM program at Trinity, I am reading extensively outside that program, and I listen to the Teaching Company’s CDs on various aspects of Christianity while I am in the car or on the treadmill.

I have listened to a series on “Lost Christianities” and one on “After the New Testament” and am currently working on the Reformation. I was particularly taken with the concept of “intrinsic faith” and “extrinsic faith”.

For most folks in the medieval church, they did what the clergy told them to do and believed what they were told to believe in the hope that this obedience would land them eventually in heaven instead of hell. Because they were, for the most part, illiterate, they really didn’t have much choice, it seems to me, but an “intrinsic faith”.

“Extrinsic faith”, on the other hand was being able to articulate not only *what* one believed, but *why* one believed it, and was the prerequisite of the educated classes—clergy and nobility.

Extrinsic faith is what I am after, and I am finding this undertaking to be full of surprises! I know that the victors get to write the history, but wow, what a battle to get there! Christianity as we know it has so many roots that we never hear about, so I am very much looking forward to the Lenten Adult forums at Trinity.

One observation I came across noted that one cannot understand Christianity without understanding Judaism, and one cannot understand first century Judaism without understanding the Roman Empire. That’s enough to keep one busy for a good long time right there!

Ultimately, I suspect, I am looking for an expression of faith that is beyond dogma, creeds, and confessions, and lists of requirements if one wants to be a member of the club.

My reading of scripture is that those issues were exactly what Jesus railed against in his ministry. Radical inclusion, not exclusion, was what Jesus taught, along with a trust in a God who loves and cares for us no matter where we are in the pecking order of the world we live in.

Trust in God's benevolence, service to others in the name of God, answering the call to be a partner in the creation of the Kingdom—that is the path to which I aspire. It is an interesting journey.

-Alexis Dorf

I know that the Immoveable comes down;

I know that the Invisible Appears to me;

I know that he who is far outside the Whole creation

Takes me into himself and hides me in his arms.

St. Symeon the new theologian
10th century

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address correction requested

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