



TRINITY TIMES

MAY 2008

Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Linda Lloyd
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Roy Bickley
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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:

When Elvis Presley became the hottest thing in popular music, he recorded for RCA Victor. Seeing how much money RCA was making from their phenomenon, all of the other record companies invested huge sums of money in the search for a "new Elvis", someone who would bring them even greater notoriety and profit than did the Memphis truck driver.



I think the closest any of them ever came was Frankie Avalon.

I had occasion to dwell on this historical minutiae the other day, while at a meeting of clergy and laity. [I confess I'm not always fully engaged during meetings outside of the parish. In my Kindergarten report, I was labeled a "day-dreamer".] On the agenda was a presentation about a new way of reviewing how hospitable our parishes are to newcomers. As it turned out, the presenter did not show up for the meeting. Since we had a hole in the agenda, there was time for a general discussion about the features of this "newness", albeit without any of the more precise information that the presenter could have offered.

As I suspected, it appears the newness involves a considerable amount of "old-ness". One of its features is discontinuing the use of the Book of Common Prayer, Hymnal, and Holy Bible in worship. These devotional tools are to be replaced by multi-page "bulletins" which will contain all the information judged relevant by the clergy and also provide ease of use to congregations perhaps regarded as too maladroit for the more traditional media.

Naturally, these multi-page bulletins will also require a considerable amount of preparation, computer time, photocopier toner, electricity, and paper. Given that I was attending this

meeting on Earth Day, I had to smile. If I knew how to accurately measure a carbon footprint, I think I would find that this act of hospitality would exceed our common allotment. Also, given that this is hardly a new idea, as this has been a practice in many parishes over the last fifteen years, years marked by a staggering decline in membership in the greater Episcopal Church, I think it just another attempt to find our equivalent of the new Elvis. Instead, it's just Frankie Avalon again, except now we're calling him Fabian.

I know and have come to accept that the Book of Common Prayer is regarded by many in the contemporary church as a burden to worship and barrier to evangelism. My perspective on this was documented in some piquant comments I made in the last Vicar's Annual Report ["I appreciate modern conveniences as much as the next person, but Nicholas Ridley was not burned at the stake for a Sunday bulletin; Hugh Latimer was not martyred for the sake of a program; Thomas Cranmer was not murdered for a photocopy."] But I have become somewhat more alarmed by the casual absence of the Bible from pews. If we have reached a point where the Holy Bible is unfamiliar to us, and we have to rely on clergy to give us pre-chosen morsels of scripture, then of what profit was Gutenberg's gift and William Tyndale's sacrifice?



To that end, I'm proposing a new form of Bible study for our Adult Education program, one that will take advantage of the experiences, interests, and education of our parish members.

While we will study the Bible, we will also bring into our discussion elements of spiritual importance gleaned from the arts, music, literature, philosophy, and even secular history. It is my hope that those who are similarly minded in other parishes and Christian traditions will feel invited to attend, as well. Our first meeting will be on Saturday, May 10 at 10 am in the library.

Those who do attend regularly will find themselves as knowledgeable of scripture as any contemporary evangelist or 19th cen-

tury Episcopalian. We may even find a new way of viewing Jesus that works within our own experiences and curiosity. Be aware, though, that I won't make any promises about finding a new Elvis.

Father Rob

ASCENSION DAY EVENSONG



Sung Evening Prayer, known as Evensong, is a service offered in the late afternoon or evening to close the working portion of the day. It is particular to

the Anglican tradition, of which the Episcopal Church is a part, and grew directly out of the mission activity that sprinkled monasteries, convents, and abbeys throughout the British Isles and Ireland beginning in the 4th century. It is not a long or wordy service as it relies on chant and music to illuminate the prayers that are offered and to create a meditative pause in one's day.

The Trinity Choir, Music Director, and Vicar invite the parish and its friends to the occasion of Evensong on Ascension Day, which is Thursday, May 1st, at 7 pm. As the liturgy follows the Book of Common Prayer and uses hymns and settings familiar to our Hymnal, it will be a service in which all may participate.

THANKS!



Thanks to all who attended the annual Trinity Spring clean up day! Many hands do indeed



make light work, and at the end of a couple of hours, our grounds were once again trimmed, raked, weeded, neat and tidy. Part of being a welcoming congregation to those who visit us is offering an environment that evidences the care of those who worship (and play!) at Trinity.



Special thanks to *chef du jour* Emily DiMartino, who made lunch for the hungry work crew!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TRINITY!



Trinity Sunday falls on May 18 this year, and we will celebrate our name day with a special liturgy as well as the traditional Trinity picnic.

At the 10:30 service we will have Morning Prayer in addition to Holy Eucharist, and the choir will sing the Venite and canticles. We will recite the Apostles' Creed instead of the usual Nicene Creed, and use the old-school suffrages as well as the collects and prayers from the 1885 *Book of Common Prayer*.

Anglicanism has its roots in the monastic tradition, and this liturgy will reflect that tradition. So...if you are one of those who grieves the loss of the "old" BCP, this service will offer you particular joy.

Thanks to Father Rob, Christine and the choir for offering such a special birthday gift to the congregation!

MEMORIAL DAY TAG AND BAKE SALE

May will be one busy month at Trinity! Hard on the heels of our name day celebration will come the annual giant Tag and Bake Sale on May 24 from 10-2 pm.



Tag Sale chairwoman Ginny Dildine needs helpers to set up Walker Hall in the days preceding the sale and salespeople to help shoppers with

their purchases. If you can help out in one way or another, please let Ginny know at 860-824-7455.

Books, CDs, DVDs, gently loved toys, kitchen items, furniture in good condition, knick knacks, costume jewelry for the bou-

tique, linens and framed pictures and prints are all welcome and can be dropped off any time at Trinity.

Please, no clothes or shoes! And remember the Tag Sale motto: *If it belongs at the dump, please take it there directly!!*



Also for sale are Trinity's special "Knighty-night" t-shirts, now in three styles! They are soft and comfy and make great summer sleepwear. And who can beat that \$5.00 price?

Bakers are also needed for that portion of the sale; if you can make sandwiches, cakes, cookies, quick breads, yeast breads, brownies, pies or other delectables, please let Alice Tweed know at 860-435-2058. If the weather is good, we will have a number of cyclists coming through, and they are always hungry!



MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC

Just in case you haven't spent as much time at Trinity as you would like on May 24, please come back for the annual Memorial Day "steak out" at 6 pm.

Al Dorf will be grilling the steaks (if you wish something else grilled, just bring it along and it will be prepared for you) and parishioners supply the sides and desserts.

Our summer picnic celebrations offer particularly great opportunities not only to get to know other parishioners better, but to invite friends and neighbors to an informal, low key gathering at our parish.





SOCCKER BEGINS JUNE 8!

Geoff Brown and his team of coaches will kick off the soccer season at 10:20 on Sunday, June 8. After a brief worship service, participants will practice drills and mixed age scrimmages for about an hour.

At 11:30 those wishing to attend Holy Eucharist move to the church while other young people return to their homes.

All children, youth and their cousins, neighbors and classmates are invited to join the fun! Summer Sunday soccer is a way for our children to know that God is present in all aspects of their lives, not just on Sunday morning in the church building.

Please call Geoff at 860-824-0640 to sign up.



THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR

A couple of days ago I was out weeding our riding ring, a large flat oval with a surface of sharp sand. It has sun exposure from shortly after sunrise until sunset, and gets very hot midday. Winds blowing across the fields dry it out and make it, to my mind, inhospitable to anything but schooling horses.

However, all sorts of weeds find it to their liking, and I am in a perpetual battle to keep the ring weed free without resorting to chemical warfare. On this particular morning I worked my way carefully across the sand surface, tossing away small rocks and stones (which we grow as a crop in Connecticut) and pulling weeds, being sure to get them by their roots and thus dispose of them completely.

When I arrived at the far end of the ring, pleased with the completeness of my efforts, I turned around eagerly to survey my supposed weed-free path. Not so. I had missed more greenery than I cared to admit.

How could that have happened?

I guess it was the turning around and seeing things in a different light. The sun was now behind me instead of in front of me and things I hadn't seen before were now visible. For whatever reason – too much exposure to the EFM program, the vicar's adult education forum, listening to 36 lectures on the Reformation this winter – I thought of John the Baptist.

In his endearing mode of address to the "brood of vipers" who had come to hear him speak, he exhorted them to repent – metanoia, in Greek. Metanoia, repentance, does not mean to be **really, really, really** sorry about something. It means, literally, to turn around – do a 180° - and go the other way. When I turned around to go the other way, I in fact saw things in a new light.

I believe that a new way of seeing is one of the important elements in Jesus' teaching. In a new light – that of God's love and care for all that God has created – we are invited to turn from the secular goals of a bigger house and a smaller cell phone towards care of the world which God loves.

When we focus on that more worthy goal, we may find ourselves losing interest in the former things which fascinated and beckoned to us. In that turning away, and in that new illumination, we may notice weeds in our lives which we hadn't seen before. And each time we choose to pull one of those weeds, we create a clearer, cleaner life, not only for ourselves, but for those whom we love.

-Alexis Dorf





VESTRY NOTES

At its March meeting, the Vestry agreed to rent Walker Hall, the kitchen, bathrooms and library to Dark Sky Films for a period of 28 days at a fee of \$4,000.00 and to rent Walker Hall to the Taconic Arts center for its water color classes this year for a fee of \$200.00.

Trinity will again honor our first responders with an Emergency Services Sunday on Sept. 14...Bishop Wismar will celebrate the 65th anniversary of his ordination at Trinity July 26...Rob will ask Jeff Silvernale to dig a drainage ditch between our parking area and the road to facilitate drainage next winter and spring.

For those interested in a blow-by-blow description of Vestry meetings, please feel free to attend one! Unless the Vestry is in executive session, all meetings are opened to parishioners. Permission to address the Vestry must be sought from the Vicar.

Additionally, after approval by the Vestry, the minutes of each meeting are posted on the Trinity website via the Clergy and Staff page.

WE MUST THINK OF OUR LORD AS LOVING US MORE THAN ANY ONE ELSE, UP-HOLDING US EVEN WHEN WE ARE READY MERCILESSLY TO CONDEMN OURSELVES; THINK OF HIM AS BEING OUR OTHER SELF, BOLDER IN APPROVAL AND MORE READY TO REJOICE OVER US THAN WE ARE OURSELVES. THAT IS THE IDEAL OF FATHERHOOD, OF FRIENDSHIP, AND OF LOVE. WHEN WE KNOW OUR LORD THUS, WE KNOW HIM WELL AND EVERY THING IS EASY."

-Abbe de Tourville

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