



# TRINITY TIMES

## SEPTEMBER 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:



It always seems that, no matter how pleasant and slow the season, in the life of a parish each summer week can seem like some figurative slingshot that is being pulled back ever more slightly. Once Labor Day weekend has concluded, the sling is loosed and we charge with great resolve into the late summer all the way until the respite after Christmas. This year is no different. As I have a number of partially completed projects on my desk and in my medulla, I thought I would share a few by way of information.

First, we have received, and continue to receive, a number of objects that enable us to enrich both our worship life and our presentation to the greater community. I would like to thank Bob Reid for his gift of the choir chairs in loving memory of Holly. While I appreciate the practicality of Samsonite folding chairs, Bob's memorial gift is a better and more attractive fit for the sanctuary. In addition, Jose Orraca has given us the sanctus bells that are used both to highlight particular moments in the liturgy and to challenge the lay ministers as they learn how and when to play them. We also acknowledge Arete Warren's gift of the new sign in front of the church, offered in memory of her parents, which has already become an object coveted by some of our neighboring clergy.

Second, the long dormant carillon bells in our church tower are to be repaired and restored during the coming year. This is a gift from a member of our extended congregation and will, upon completion, enable the bells to mark the passage of the hours and to play hymn tunes on days of particular devotion.

Jane Lipton and Sally Cummins have begun a "chrysanthemum fund" to help beautify the main, and tradi-

tional, entrance to the sanctuary. As that space has been recently ornamented by the addition of American and Episcopal Church flags, the added flora will replace the overgrown vegetation and continue to offer a colorful hospitality to those entering our sacred space.

On Saturday mornings this summer, we received on average one person, or one group of persons, per week interested in seeing the interior of the sanctuary. Since the practice of having “docents” to give tours and offer points of historical minutiae is common in other parishes, I thought that Trinity might do the same. If you are interested in participating in such a ministry, please speak to the vicar.



The Altar of Repose, which is in the space that once housed the organ pipes, will be completed this fall with the addition of a work of stained glass art and some appropriate paraments and candle holders. While not intended to serve as an altar for the consecration of sacred elements, it will be a place to quietly offer prayers and the daily office, as well as the healing ministry that I hope may one day be a part of our weekly offerings.

Finally, Andrew Smith, our diocesan bishop, will fulfill his canonically-required visitation on the final Sunday of the season of Advent, or December 21<sup>st</sup>. As this will also be the Sunday of our Children’s Pageant, I hope that we can make the bishop, as our guest of honor, a welcome part of our annual celebration. Perhaps we can find a role for him in the pageant, too.

Please continue to pray for the continued growth of mission and ministry at Trinity Church, and please continue to look for and offer new ways to proclaim the Gospel in all that you do.

*Father Rob*

## THANKS!



Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, fourteen school children will return to school this year fully equipped with backpacks, pencils, crayons, glue, scissors and all the other necessary accoutrements to a year in elementary school.

Given the increasing costs of food and fuel, a number of local families are unable to outfit their children in the way they would like to, and as part of our efforts to live the Gospel, we have been privileged to be able to help out.



The word from OWLs Kitchen, according to liaison Emily Di Martino, is that food supplies are low and the kitchen is in even more need than usual. The folks there send their thanks for our offerings, and say that we are among the most faithful of their supporters. (Go, Trinity! - ed)

Thanks also to those who participated in and Coach Brown with the summer soccer program. Although fewer youngsters came than in other years, the combination of the worship program and soccer games and practice was enjoyed by children and adults alike.



## COMING UP!

Although the church year begins with Advent and the calendar year begins in January, everyone knows that the *real* year begins in September. Accordingly, we are going to be one busy group right from the get go of Labor Day weekend!



The Art show closes the afternoon of Labor Day, and chair Linda Lloyd would like to thank all those who helped out this fundraiser by moving furniture and the perpetual book sale, hanging and lighting the show, helping

host the opening reception, "sitting" the show in the afternoons and exhibiting and buying the works displayed. Who knew we have so many talented artists right in our own Trinity family?

On September 7 the new choir chairs and the sanctus bells will be dedicated and Sunday School will begin at 10:20. All children are welcome!

The second annual Emergency Services Sunday will be September 14, as we offer thanks for the gifts that first responders bring to our individual and corporate lives here in the Northwest Corner. We will have a special coffee hour and expect an impressive display of Emergency Services vehicles!



The Education for Ministry program will reconvene in mid-September. This theological education program for those not seeking ordination includes assigned readings (now on CD for those who prefer to listen!) and group discussions on what Scripture has to say to the events of our contemporary lives. For further information, speak to MaryAnne Carley at 860-364-5652 or macarley@sbcglobal.net.

### CONGRATULATIONS!



Trinity Church extends its congratulations and best wishes to Laura and Matthew Zele on the birth of their daughter Mackensie Marie on August 6. Welcome to the Trinity family, Mackensie!

### SAID ANY GOOD PRAYERS LATELY?

*At the request of the Vicar, I am Looking to gather a collection of your favorite prayers, original or not. Whatever speaks to you, whether it is words of a hymn, a picture, your own prayers or*

*those you love dearly from someone else, we would like to put together a small book of these from our parish. We are following an example from a Springfield parish that Trudy Washburn brought to our attention at a recent ECW meeting. Please send your choices by email to danieg26@gmail.com or see me any Sunday morning.*

-Danielle Gaherty

### THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR



There are times when I think that perhaps I should quit reading, thinking, questioning and just plain dealing with all the issues that come up with identifying oneself as a Christian, especially where liturgy is concerned. The Old and New Testament readings, the chanting of the psalms, the hymns (well, at least those whose wording reflect my own experience and aspirations) are all fine. It's the Creed that is currently doing me in.



I am fully aware that the first creed, recited as I understand it, at the baptism of a convert, was something along the lines of "Jesus is Lord". I suspect that what that meant to someone in first or second century Palestine was probably not quite what it means to me in 21<sup>st</sup> century America, but okay, I can go with that. It's simple and direct. Then along came all the Donatists, Montanists, Arians, Docetists, Gnostics and undoubtedly a whole lot of other groups unknown to us who came to be labeled heretics because they had a different interpretation of who and what Jesus was.

As a result, orthodox Christianity came to the place where it needed to define exactly what the Story was in order to know who was a true Christian and who was not, and we end up with the Creeds. And that is where I

run into trouble; I do not accept literally all the elements of the Story. Fortunately, in my reading I have come across the reminder that "creed" comes from "credo" and implies that to which we can give our hearts, not that to which we give intellectual assent. Whereas I cannot in good conscience repeat "I believe" in relation to a number of clauses in the Creed, I can easily give my heart to the sense of what they are saying, to the metaphor as opposed to the factuality. So things improve – if slightly – there.

Additionally it helps to remember that God is probably more concerned with whether I am "walking the walk" as opposed to "talking the talk". The recitation of a Creed on Sunday is simple enough. The living out – loving my neighbor, feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger – of what we profess is much more difficult and demanding —not to mention rewarding!

So I guess I will continue to mull over whether one can be a Christian if one does not literally accept all the phrases of the Creed, and if one can't, what does that make me? Meanwhile, you'll continue to find me in the back of the church, thinking and questioning and perhaps even mumbling the Creed.

-Alexis Dorf

Trinity Church records with sorrow the deaths this summer of Eileen Sommerville and Ted Rogers.

*I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes behold, and not as a stranger.*

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address correction requested

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