



# TRINITY TIMES

## OCTOBER 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:



When I was growing up, it was the practice of our family to go to the municipal zoo on temperate Sunday afternoons. We would attend the 11AM service at our parish, which was usually Morning Prayer in those days, take a picnic lunch or stop at a new restaurant with golden arches [I wonder whatever happened to that place?] and make it to the zoo in plenty of time to see the pachyderm house, feed five cents worth of slimy fish to the seals, and enjoy the simian antics on Monkey Island. While it was the same zoo with the same animals, the experience was always cherished and was a familiar part of our Sunday routine.

One Saturday, I was playing over at a friend's house when his mother suggested that we all go to the zoo. I didn't know what to make of that. In fact, I wasn't sure if the zoo was even open on a Saturday, since I had only ever been there on Sundays. Yet, off we went, to discover that, indeed, the zoo was open, the elephants still in their house, the seals still hungry, and Monkey Island was still overcrowded and raucous. Clearly, Sunday wasn't the only day to have to have this kind of fun.

I was thinking of this the other day when I was attempting to come up with ways to re-structure our Sunday School program since the recent loss of our director. Certainly, we could attempt to recreate what we've been doing for the past two years, with 6 to 8 volunteer teachers working in two person teams. That way, no one would have to commit to Sunday School more than once or twice a month, leaving opportunities for participation in other features of life at Trinity Church. Or, if we are unable to collect that many people willing to serve, we could reduce Sunday School to just one or two days a month.

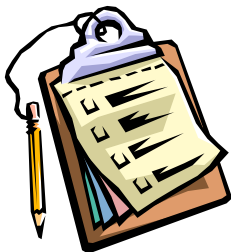
Then there is the third option; one which may be a good fit to our particular mission and style as a parish. We could offer a Saturday version of Sunday School. If we did so, it would be once or twice a month, depending on the level of parental and volunteer participation, and could include not only a traditional lesson, but music for the children and their own liturgy with the vicar.

There are a number of things that recommend this third plan, as it gives the children of the parish a weekend activity, enables them to experience and learn music, and permits their full interaction with the staff of the parish; things that can't be experienced if children's education is limited to Sunday mornings. It could also be an experience open to children and parents who aren't necessarily connected to any parish or who have conflicting commitments on Sundays.

Clearly, this requires some parochial conversation. I'll be holding a meeting on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in Walker Hall for all parents, children, volunteers, and anyone else with interest in offering something new in our education program. I'm hoping that we will discover, as I did with the zoo many, many years ago, that we can have just as much fun, fellowship, and learning on a Saturday as on a Sunday.

*Father Rob*

## NOTES FROM THE VESTRY



In lieu of a regular Vestry meeting, a retreat was held at St. Michael's in Litchfield on September 13.

The first part of the day focused on program opportunities at Trinity.

Rob noted that we can build on our strengths in the areas of liturgy and worship, hospitality and sports while looking for ways to expand our offerings in the children's education program, Quantum Theology, the Art Show and the Children's pageant.

The balance of the meeting addressed the approach to stewardship which we will undertake this year and the implementation of the Animal Memorial Garden. (Parishioner Lynn Gaffney, AIA, has presented some preliminary sketches of what such an installation might look like, and these will be available for perusal at Trinity—ed).

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

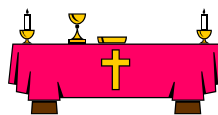
We will mark the Feast of St. Francis, one of the most beloved of saints, on Oct. 5 at the 10:30 Holy Eucharist. The Blessing of the Animals is always a special day at Trinity, so please bring your critter(s) - leashed, caged or otherwise under control— that morning. (Large animals will be blessed in the field).



This service is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends or neighbors who have winged or four legged companions in their homes as it is a time when we are not quite so formal in our worship as we are on other Sundays. The special coffee hour will feature treats for everyone!

This past year a number of parishioners have lost pets that were dear to them. The altar flowers on Oct. 5 will be given in memory of those animals who were special to us; please consider making a donation (with **flower fund** on the memo line) to remember a particular pet.

## ALTAR GUILD SUNDAY



Sometimes the altar guild is referred to as "the quiet ministry" as so much of its work is unseen. But boy, do we notice it when something is missing or out of place at a liturgy! Polishing the brass, replacing candles, flowers, Eucharistic elements, altar hangings appropriate to the season are all the responsibility of the men and women who make up the Altar Guild.

We will honor the Altar Guild on Oct. 12 and ask that you consider a donation to the work that makes our sanctuary a beautiful and welcoming home to both the parish family and visitors. Even better, speak to Alice Tweed about becoming a member of the Altar Guild!



## EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

The Education for Ministry (EFM) program begins Wednesday, Oct. 5 from 3-5 pm in the Trinity library. This is a theological education for those not seeking ordination. New this year are the “readings” for each week on CD, great for those who spend more time driving than sitting and reading!

Along with each week’s reading is a theological reflection topic presented by a member of the group. It can be a story, poem, cartoon, scripture reading or anything else that comes to mind. The group then compare and contrasts how the subject is addressed in scripture and how it is treated in the secular world today. There are surprising insights!

For further information, contact MaryAnne Carley at [macarley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:macarley@sbcglobal.net) or 860-364-5652.



## IT’S NOT TOO SOON!

The Annual Holiday Bazaar will be here before we know it! Dec. 6 is the day and the time will be from 10-2. As always, we will need pies, cakes and holiday confections for the bake sale, so if you are baking over the next several weeks, why not double the recipe and put half in the freezer for the Bazaar?

Ginny Dildine and her team will need folks to help with lunch and the sales tables, so mark your calendar now!

## THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR



At a recent coffee hour, a fellow parishioner and I were discussing James Kugel’s book *How to Read the Bible*. Kugel is a Harvard scholar and the author of a number of books concerning the Hebrew Scriptures – by whom, for whom and how they were written, how they were interpreted by their contemporaries and how they are interpreted now.

Given that the Old Testament is full of stories that are not “true” (factual) as well as being rife with accounts of murder and mayhem, why should we read it, my friend asked. It certainly is not children’s literature, he concluded!

Well, that certainly got me thinking. The Old and New Testaments get equal time each week during the liturgy (Old Testament reading and Psalm; Epistle and Gospel) and frankly I have never considered why we *shouldn’t* read it.

So here is why I think we should read the OT. All families have family stories, and the OT is the family story of a wandering desert tribe that became the Israelites, later known as the Jews. My own family story begins with “our family comes from Bohemia, where we went after being expelled from Spain during the Inquisition...” The family story of the Israelites begins with “My father was a wandering Aramean...” (Deut. 26:5-8) and that family story is repeated as part of the Passover liturgy by Jewish families to this day, just as my family story is repeated to the upcoming generation at family reunions.

My family has stories about the time that some brother or sister or aunt or uncle did or said this or that, and such stories are recorded in the OT as well – Jacob stealing Esau’s birthright, the crossing of the Red Sea, David and Bathsheba, Baalam and his donkey...all of these recountings help us know who we are, where we came from and why we carry on certain traditions (in one branch of my family, they eat ham on Thanksgiving, but that’s another story!)

Second, as Christians, we need to know the “backstory” of our faith. We need to be knowledgeable about the concepts of sacrifice, repentance, forgiveness and atonement as the Israelites understood them, for instance, in order to understand our liturgy. Jesus is often referred to as the lamb of God. Where does that come from? How about the Son of Man? The Gospels and Epistles make frequent reference to OT sources when they identify Jesus as the Messiah; familiarity with those references and their contexts enables us to better understand the basis of our own faith.

The more familiar I become with the world of the Middle East and the culture of the Jews prior to the emergence of Christianity as a sub-group of Judaism, the better I can understand what it is that Paul and other New Testament writers are getting at, and the more effectively I can discern the strands and traditions that make up who we are as Christians today.

So if you are truly interested in your Christian “family story”, check out the Old Testament – you’ll be surprised at all the “relatives” you meet there!

—Alexis Dorf

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address correction requested

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