



TRINITY TIMES

NOVEMBER 2008

Trinity Episcopal Church

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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

Lisa Brennan, *Bookkeeper*
Jeff Silvernale, *Grounds*
Junior Wright, *Sexton*
Alexis Dorf, *Trinity Times*

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK:

Dear Parents and Friends of Trinity Church
Sunday School:



As most of you know, Denise is not able to serve as our Sunday School director for the 2008-2009 season. While we have had three people offer their services as teachers, none is able to do so with routine consistency, due to their personal schedules and involvement in other aspects of ministry at Trinity. This led us to discuss alternatives to the traditional Sunday School program. After informal discussions with parents, and a gathering of the Christian Education group in October, I would offer this suggestion as to how we may proceed.

I would like to organize a Sunday School experience that would be offered one Sunday a month at 10 am. While it would include lessons that are relevant to the church season, along with activities that would creatively engage our children, I would also like to begin this experience with a children's service, conducted by the vicar, that would help to explain why we do what we do and encourage continuing participation in the liturgy. The "children's chapel", which would take less than ten minutes, would be followed by activities based on a standard Episcopal Church curriculum, customized to suit our youngsters. This once-a-month offering would be scheduled for approximately forty-five minutes with the children entering the sanctuary at the conclusion of their activities. As this develops, we could begin to offer this form of Sunday School on more Sundays.

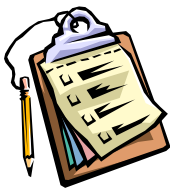
I will be scheduling a meeting soon, preferably on a Sunday after the 10:30 celebration of the Holy Eucharist, to discuss dates and organization. Further information about this meeting will be forthcoming. Obviously, the more people who are willing to lend a hand, the easier this responsibility will be for

us all.

On a related note, our annual Christmas Pageant will be held at the 10:30 Eucharist on Sunday, December 21st. Rehearsal information will be released shortly. As the pageant also coincides with the official visit of The Rt. Rev. Andrew Smith, Bishop of Connecticut, I hope that we will have many children participating and many parishioners present. I also hope to cajole the bishop into putting on some lamb's ears and joining the fun.

If I have not said so lately, thanks for your continued prayers, participation and support.

Father Rob



VESTRY NOTES

At recent Vestry meetings the focus has been on the *New Consecration Sunday* program developed by Herb Miller. This format has been used successfully by a number of denominations. It is easy to implement and does not require a huge amount of work by any parish group in particular. In the absence of a stewardship committee, the Vestry will be acting as same. The culmination of the program will be a guest preacher at the 10:30 service on December 7 with a catered lunch to follow in Walker Hall afterwards. Invitations will be extended to all active parishioners.

Other topics under discussion have included the altar of repose and its immediate setting as well as a possible pet memorial garden outside the big window in Walker Hall. Drawings by parishioner Lynn Gaffney, AIA, are posted on the bulletin board in hallway to the church.

Finally, we are considering closing the doors at the rear of the church for the winter, in order to save fuel. Entrance will be through the Walker Hall doors until we are past the heating season. (Heads up, all liturgy latecomers!)



**HOLIDAY
BAZAAR
DEC. 6
10 am –2 pm**



Bazaar co-chairs Ginny Dildine and Trudy Washburn need your help! They are looking for nice quality "treasures" to sell at the bazaar boutique. If you have such items in your home and are willing to donate them to a most worthy cause, please bring them to church and to Ginny's attention. As we try to make the Holiday Bazaar a "higher class" occasion, please save all those "\$1.00 per bag" items that Linda Lloyd peddles in the tent at the Memorial Day tag sale for that event!

We are particularly looking for small, attractive baskets, boxes, vases, bottles, etc that we can fill with other items, including food, and sell as stocking stuffers, hostess gifts and such.



Ginny and Trudy are planning to have a "get it all together" day on Monday, Dec. 1 at 10:00 am at Trinity. That morning we will assemble, wrap and decorate the various donations into the kinds of gifts we would both like to give and receive. Come and share a cup of tea and learn something new about gift wrapping as a bonus!

Nothing to donate this year? Cold hard cash to underwrite the day is also greatly welcomed, as it will enable the ECW to buy the bits and pieces that will put the finishing touches on the merchandise. Checks should be made out to Trinity ECW.

As always, the bake sale will be a popular place, and Alice Tweed will be looking for bakers to fill those tables with a delectable assortment of cookies, candy, pies, cakes and breads for eating and gifting both! Please let Alice know what you will bring.





Finally, to fuel weary shoppers' empty stomachs, John Lloyd will be making his famous donuts and cider in the morning while a light "soup plus" lunch will be offered at a nominal fee

midday.

For further information, please contact Ginny Dildine (860-824-7455), Trudy Washburn (860-824-5894) or Alice Tweed (860-435-2058).

THANKSGIVING INGATHERING



Trinity's annual *Feed a Family of Four for a Day* food donation program will culminate with the blessing of the Thanksgiving grocery bags and their subsequent donation to the

OWLs Kitchen on Sunday, Nov. 16 at the 10:30 service.

Grocery bags with an attached suggested menu of low fat, low sugar, low sodium non perishable food items are available in the church. Please take a bag and fill it to the best of your ability and return it to Trinity on or before Nov. 16.

For those with children, shopping for these groceries together, perhaps allowing youngsters to make some of the choices, can be a meaningful, hands-on experience of what Christian outreach is about, and of how we respond to Jesus' directive to love our neighbors as ourselves.

OWLs kitchen reports that their clientele has increased substantially with the downturn of the national economy, and they are in even greater need than usual of donations to keep their shelves full.

Our participation in this program will make our own celebrations more meaningful when we sit down to Thanksgiving dinners, wherever we may be. We are blessed in many ways; passing on those blessings is the essence of walking in the Way.



THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR

Author Anne LaMotte says there are only two kinds of prayer – "help me, help me, help me " and "thank you, thank you, thank you".

I think she is right. How often have we prayed to God as if to a cosmic magician: "help me pass this exam" , "let the baby be healthy", "please don't let that funny noise in the back of the car be an expensive repair"? All those "help me, help me" prayers are often accompanied by a promise to go to church regularly, pray daily and maybe adopt a stray cat. And when the immediate crisis is past, the church going becomes more intermittent, as do the prayers, and the cat –well, it's really not a good time to adopt a cat.

"Thank you, thank you" prayers – when the exam is passed, the baby is healthy and the funny noise is a loose stone in the hubcap – may be brief and intense - and then forgotten. Sometimes we do not live out the "help me" prayers by studying for the exam, finding appropriate prenatal care and do the required maintenance on the car, but we can live out the "thank you" prayers".

It is not difficult to live out a thank you prayer. When we make a deliberate point of being conscious of God's generosity and goodness to us, the desire to incarnate our gratitude can become overwhelming. But at times of economic anxiety for whatever reason, we tend to want to hang on to what we have and that sense of gratitude gets buried under layers of apprehension. I think that these particular times are the most important ones for us to recite to ourselves, if necessary, the list of blessings of which we are the recipients, and then bless others by letting go of some of what we have. The simple act of passing on some of what we have been given enables us to realize, in a concrete manner, that we have more than we think we have. And that in itself is a God-given gift.

When we hang on tightly to what we have, our hands are closed, and a closed hand

cannot receive what God wants to give us. When we open our fists to let go of whatever serves as our personal security blanket and to offer help to those less fortunate, the windows of heaven open and pour into our hands more than we can possibly hold.

This year, as we consider our financial commitments to Trinity, let us remember how blessed we are and let us offer back to God the first fruits of our labors, saying "thank you, thank you, thank you" for all that we have been given.

-Alexis Dorf

ALL THINGS COME OF THEE, O LORD
AND OF THINE OWN HAVE WE GIVEN THEE

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address correction requested