



# TRINITY TIMES

## DECEMBER 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*

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

#### FROM THE VICAR'S DESK:

Five years ago this Christmas I was serving as the interim rector of a larger congregation than Trinity's. So large, in fact, that I had two sextons, one full-time and two part-time clergy associates, both a parish secretary *and* a parish administrator, nine other staff members and a paid choir. Most of my time was spent at a desk as an administrator, juggling various staff responsibilities, needs, and issues. To be honest, I didn't find the experience all that spiritually edifying.



I was thinking about this the other day when I was on the floor of one of Trinity's lavatories attempting to fix a minor problem related to the...well, let's just say the "plumbing". Please don't mistake this for a lament, far from it. It's actually an appreciation. The clergy that I knew growing up thought nothing of taking out garbage from the parish kitchen, mopping a muddy floor, or repairing siding on a parish hall. Some were even proficient at bricklaying and electrical work. In those days, it was a part of ministry. Not particularly glamorous, I guess, and certainly not entirely "white collar", but maybe the best example of what the word "incarnation" is about. Certainly it was, for them, a point of revelation.

The Feast of the Incarnation, which is also known as Christmas, celebrates the union of God and the human race through the person of Jesus, whose simultaneously humble and exalted birth serves as the perfect and permanent nexus. While our annual attention is often captured by the divine aspects of his being, revealed as they are through drama of the Passion during Holy Week and Eastertide, what draws us to Christmas each year is its simplicity and the reminder that, for all of the eternal triumph that he presents, Jesus is as fully human as he is divine; as fully human as we are. His birth, the reality of his life and that of his parents and friends, is a very human story told in a very human manner.

This is one of the reasons that holy men and women throughout history, from those canonized to those all-but-forgotten, have taught that spirituality, in all of its protean wonder, and is often best found in the simple, the mundane, and the physical. God could not bring salvation to the world solely through the witness of the patriarchs and prophets, but only by becoming human and blessing human endeavor with the divine. I appreciate that not everyone would find much joy in plumbing repair, order of service construction, mass photocopying, or cleaning the parish's kitchen refrigerator, but I find it much closer to what Jesus revealed through his incarnate life and teachings than the ponderous contemplation or self-interested intellectualism of contemporary Christianity.

This theme will be explored, with the aid of meaningful music, traditional symbolism, and ancient prayers, when we join together in the liturgies of Christmas. The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist according to Rite II will be offered on Christmas Eve at 7 pm. Seasonal music will be featured at that liturgy by our choir and its friends. The Holy Eucharist, Rite I with hymns and sermon will be offered on Christmas Eve at 10 pm and Christmas Day at 10 am. As ever, all are invited; all are welcome.

## **FATHER ROB**



### **HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

"International" is the word for this year's holiday bazaar on Dec. 6 from 10 am –2 pm.

A special collection of costumed dolls for sale will be a notable feature of this year's event. They are sure to please the little girls in our lives!

As always, wreaths, cards, stocking stuffers and the crafts of local vendors will be available for purchase, and John Lloyd's famous donuts and cider will fill the hall with the delicious aroma of the holidays.

**NEW** this year are international coffees from around the world. They may be purchased by the 2 oz bag or in a gift basket accompanied by homemade biscotti and chocolate treats.

The Bake Sale table will feature breads, cookies, spiced nuts, cakes and pies, wonderful for eating or gifting—or both!

A light luncheon of soup, bread and coffee or tea will be available during the noon hour. Please support this Trinity fundraiser!

## **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**



This year's Christmas pageant will be presented by our young people at the 10:30 service on IV Advent, Dec. 21. The Right Reverend Andrew Smith, Bishop of the Diocese of Connecticut, will be our celebrant and homilist.

Rehearsals for the pageant begin on Dec. 6 at 2 pm and will continue on Dec. 13 and Dec. 20 at the same hour. If there is a young person in your family who would like to participate and has not been contacted by Trinity, please contact Geoff Brown at 860-824-0640.

## **GREENING OF THE CHURCH**

The annual Greening of the Church will take place on Dec. 21 after the 10:30 service. The decorating of the church to welcome the newborn babe of Bethlehem is a significant undertaking, and the congregation is asked to enjoy a quick cup of coffee at coffee hour and then help the Altar and Flower Committees as they beautify our church once again.

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT TRINITY**

**DEC. 24 at 7 and 10 pm**

**DEC. 25 at 10 am**

## THANKS FROM THE OWLS KITCHEN!



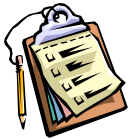
Members of Trinity contributed a total of over 30 grocery bags brimming with non-perishable foods along with \$80.00 to the *Feed a Family of Four for a Day*

Thanksgiving project.

Representatives of the OWLs Kitchen noted that of the various organizations in our local towns, Trinity is the largest supporter of the Kitchen.

Thanks to all of those who shared their blessings with those less fortunate this Thanksgiving, and especially to Emily Di-Martino, who coordinated our efforts!

## FROM THE VESTRY



In the last few months, the Vestry's primary focus has been the implementing of the New Consecration Sunday stewardship program at Trinity.

The sharing of our gifts as a means of spiritual growth, not the funding of the church budget, has been emphasized through letters and personal witnesses during church services. The culmination of the Vestry's efforts will be at the celebration lunch on Sunday, Dec. 7. Our guest preacher that morning will be The Rev. Erik Larsen, Canon for transition ministry in the Diocese.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR



Christmas seems to have started even earlier than usual this year, with desperate stores and companies offering deep discounts, free shipping, double coupons and other enticements to get consumers to buy something, *anything* that will help their bottom lines. For most retailers, Christmas is the "make it" season, the time that determines their profitability for the year.

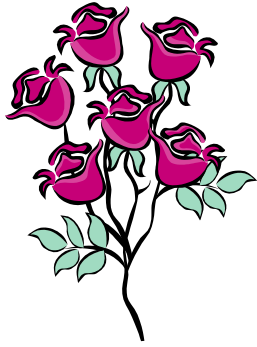
We are in a time of great economic anxiety. Thousands are being laid off from their jobs, and those who have jobs are more than a little nervous about whether those jobs will be there next week or next month. Little wonder that folks are hesitant to let go of the money they have, when a steady income stream is not assured.

So what shall we, as people of faith, do? I would suggest that we modify our own celebrations and think seriously about our *wants* as compared to others' *needs*. Most of us can reduce our gift giving and not lose much in the doing. We can focus on doing simple things together rather than giving elaborate gifts. Now is perhaps an occasion to think about the old adage that the greatest gift you can give is your time instead of a gift card. As I get older, I find that the best thing about holidays (in addition to the no-holds barred food!) is the presence of my children and grandchildren. Having us all together is really quite sufficient a celebration!

We can also make monetary donations to the charitable institutions of our choice. I keep thinking of the suffrages "Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away". My donations to organizations that provide food, clothing, medical care and other necessities to those in want are an appropriate Christmas response to Jesus' command to be as generous and gracious to others as God is to me.

So for those of us who are feeling "poor" this Christmas season, let us give ourselves the gift of feeling rich by providing for those in desperate need. There is nothing like being able to give a portion of one's blessings to make one feel wealthy beyond measure!

Alexis Dorf



# ALTAR FLOWERS

As most parishioners know, the altar flowers each week not only add beauty to the service but also serve as memorials for loved ones and thanksgivings for special occasions such as weddings and baptisms. The names of those being remembered are in the order of service and in the Books of Remembrance at Christmas and Easter. After the service, flowers are often taken to those who are ill or are homebound.

If you wish to remember loved ones through the donation of flowers to Trinity, please complete this form and send it to the church office. Checks made out to “**Trinity Church**” with “*Altar Guild Flowers*” on the memo line should accompany your request. The Altar Guild estimates that the cost of placing memorial flowers on the altar is about \$50.00-\$60.00 per week.

Please place altar flowers at Trinity in loving memory of:

**FULL NAME** (please print!)

**DATE OF MEMORIAL**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please place altar flowers at Trinity in thanksgiving for:

**FULL NAME / OCCASION**

**DATE FOR FLOWERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contribution enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND  
DWELT AMONG US,  
FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH;  
WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY,  
GLORY AS OF THE ONLY SON FROM THE  
FATHER

-JOHN 1:14

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED