



TRINITY TIMES

JANUARY 2009

Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
484 Lime Rock Rd.
Lakeville, CT 06039
Telephone: 860.435.2627
Fax: 860.435.4794
www.trinitylimerock.org
trinity@trinitylimerock.org

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:

"We keep our Holy Day adored with three miracles: to-day a star led the Magi to the crib, to-day wine was made from water at the marriage, to-day in Jordan Christ willed to be baptized by John to save us."



In the early 1960's my mother and father received their first credit card. Diner's Club, if I remember correctly. The first big-ticket item that they bought was a new mattress and set of box springs. It was from a local merchant who was also experimenting with this brave new world of credit cards and had just begun to offer telephone sales. The system was not yet perfect, however.

On the day the order was to arrive, at shortly after nine o'clock in the morning, a delivery truck, complete with a friendly, uniformed deliveryman, brought the mattress and box springs into the house. The sale was complete and my parents happy with their purchase. My father went to work and my mother, siblings and I left to visit my grandparents. However, according to the story told by our neighbors, about thirty minutes later, another mattress and box springs arrived with another friendly, uniformed deliveryman who left the items on our back porch. Later still, a third set arrived, this time delivered by the first, and rather puzzled, driver.

By late afternoon, when we returned home, the purchase of a single mattress and box springs set had blossomed into fourteen mattresses and box springs. Our back porch looked like a flophouse. The story was picked up by the daily newspaper [Fourteen Mattresses Delivered: Area Family Baffled] and made us into minor celebrities for a few days. Even with the publicity, it took about two weeks for everything to get straightened out and for the credit card agency to delete the

charges for the thirteen extra mattress sets.

Naturally, I enjoyed the entire experience.



From having my elementary school classmates stop by the house to see what was rapidly becoming the ninth wonder of, if not the world, at least of

the east side of Cleveland, to savoring the endless possibilities for building forts and other obstacles of childhood fun when there are thirteen mattresses stacked up around the house. As far as my parents were concerned, the whole experience was a complete lark.

I am reminded of this endless series of unexpected gifts as we have come to the end of our great expectations for Christmas and are beginning to, once again, settle into our routine practice. The trees and decorations begin to disappear; the presents are settled into drawers, toy chests, or armoire. Even our spiritual selves begin to return to normal, with the high expectations for Christmas replaced with the approaching and altered expectations of Lent.

Between those two seasons rests that of Epiphany. Epiphany is celebrated for a variety of reasons, not the least of which its recognition of how the gift of the Incarnation, presented to us during Christmas, continues to be received with an incrementally increasing bounty. We may have ordered our spiritual "mattress" for Christmas, and received that which we expected, but Epiphany is the season in which the gift, like that seemingly infinite series of mattresses and box springs, begins to develop and deliver. And, as with much that is spiritual, it is delivered whether we are ready or not.

In Epiphany, the Magi will arrive to present to Jesus gifts that reflect his task and its majesty. During this season, Jesus will be named in the Temple in Jerusalem and receive the blessing of the priest Simeon, securing his role for the future. He will be baptized by John in the Jordan River and experiences the Holy Spirit descend upon him. At a wedding in Cana, Jesus will perform his first miracle. Significantly, the miracle will

be that of change. While his birth began the liberation of those who were to follow him, it is these events that enrich and refine his developing ministry and aid us in our continuing pilgrimage. While Jesus' birth is that for which we waited and prepared, it is its unfolding realization that we celebrate in the season of Epiphany.

This, then, becomes the moment of our Epiphany, too, when we notice what has been delivered when we least expected it, often through humble and quiet circumstance. For, as James Joyce wrote, "The moment the focus is reached the object is *epiphanised*. It is just in this epiphany I find...the supreme quality of beauty."

Father Rob

Adult Education During Epiphany Season

January 4th and 11th

Biblical Archaeology

This two-Sunday series presents an overview of the history, techniques, important sites, discoveries, and future expectations in this field. This offering's particular interest is displaying how continued discoveries are helping to refine our understanding of sacred literature and the earliest Christian Church. We will include in our discussion the leading personalities in this field as well as gauge recent knowledge granted through new developments in genetic and marine archaeology.



February 1st and 8th

Celtic Prayer

This two-Sunday series continues our Epiphany 2007 discussion of Celtic spirituality by examining how the pre-Roman style of prayer informed the Roman Catholicism that would invade the British Isles and continues to influence and direct Anglican prayer in the 21st century. It will include prayers written by and for the various saints and holy men and women of the Celtic church, as well as examine their theological and historical foundation. Of particular concern will be how to restore aspects of Celtic spirituality in our personal and parish prayers and liturgical offerings.

February 22nd

The Hebrew and Jewish Roots of Contemporary Christianity

As Jesus was born, raised, educated, lived, died, and was buried as a Jew, this will be an examination of the connection, still present and vibrant, between the two great faith traditions and how that foundation is represented in our scripture, liturgies, prayers, songs, and holy teaching. We will include readings from some post-Christian Jewish theologians as well as look into the very dynamic 1st Century world of Jerusalem and Rome that served as the crucible for early Christianity and the Jewish Reformation.

All courses will be offered after the 10:30

am Eucharist and will be of 45 minutes length. There is no extra readings, homework, or exams. It would be advisable to bring a Bible, however.

(articles of related interest may be found at the **NEW, IMPROVED!** Vicar's blog, <http://thecoracle.blogspot.com> –ed.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 18!



The Vicar will offer a special Children's Chapel on Jan. 18 at 10:15 am. This opportunity for our children to begin to learn about the liturgy of the Episcopal Church and to take part in it will be the opening segment of a Sunday School program which will meet monthly. Thanks to the parents and other parishioners who have offered to help with this very important part of Trinity's educational offerings.

2009 PLEDGING IS UP!

In spite of the dreary economy, Trinity's parishioners have faithfully responded to God's call to offer the ministries of worship, teaching and hospitality to the stranger in our midst.

At this writing, over \$100,000 has been pledged. Each commitment is a statement of faith that the giver trusts that s/he is a beloved child of God, and that God will provide for all the necessities of his or her life. Each pledge is a sign that spiritual growth is taking place in the donor, that s/he is increasingly living out the words that we say in the Creeds, in the Confession and in the words of the Eucharist. Each pledge is a vital part in making Trinity a vibrant community of grace and healing in the Northwest Corner.

Missing your pledge card? See the Vicar or Treasurer Martha Nesbitt, who will be happy to provide you with same!

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will follow the 10:30 liturgy on Sunday, Jan 25. Election of officers and new Vestry members will take place, as will any other business to be transacted.

Annual Reports (and you know who you are, Committee chairs!) are due on Jan. 18.

A potluck lunch (always the best kind) will be coordinated by Senior Warden Linda Lloyd. Please contact Linda at 518-789-3295 or lajlloyd@gmail.com to tell her what you will contribute.



As a number of parishioners have asked for the recipe, here it is!

ALI'S MERINGUES

2 egg whites
½ tsp vanilla
2/3 cu sugar
6 oz. mini chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 375°.

Beat egg whites until stiff. Gradually add 1/3 cu. sugar and beat 3 min. Add another 1/3 cu. sugar and beat an additional 3 min. Add vanilla and chocolate chips. On an ungreased cookie sheet or a parchment paper lined the cookie sheet, drop 1 tsp. at a time.

Put the cookie sheet(s) in the oven, close the door and count to 10. Turn off the oven and leave overnight or for 6 hours. Makes about 40.

-Alexis Dorf

TRINITY TIMES
JANUARY 2009

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
484 LIME ROCK RD.
LAKEVILLE, CT 06039