



TRINITY TIMES

FEBRUARY 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
John Lloyd
Treasurer

Al Dorf, Bob Reid
Assistant Treasurers

Christine Gevert
Organist/Choir Director

Gretchen Hachmeister
Sunday School

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

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK:



Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old. [Matthew 13:52]

I'm too cheap to have a heated workshop, so from December until March there is little work that I can do there. Blanks of ash and alder are stored, paint is in a basement locker, tuners, assorted knobs and switches, strings, and cellulose scratch guards sit in their assigned drawers. During these months I come to miss the slow and careful process that goes into creating or re-creating a guitar: the shaping of the wood, the preparation of its surface, the painting, the soldering of electronic parts, and the careful alignment of neck and bridge. Each step taken with deliberation as the delicacy of the instrument allows few errors.

I pine so for the joys of fabrication that I wind up watching television. I'm not a fan of network reality shows or dramas that chiefly feature autopsies, but I do find myself watching shows about home repair, auto and motorcycle customization, or the installation of a stereo system into some NBA player's Escalade; anything that requires a craftsman to match something already manufactured with something sometimes terribly new.

Part of my pining, too, is that I know I have the body from a 1972 Stratocaster sitting in the workshop. [For those who have lived outside of the demi-monde, a Stratocaster is a famous guitar made by the Fender Company. Whenever you see some rock star capering about on stage, it's generally a Strat that he's abusing.] Once upon a time, that guitar was its

company's featured product, coveted both by professional musicians and thirteen-year-olds.



By the time it came into my possession, after being found in a dumpster by an acquaintance, it was as neglected an instrument as I've ever seen. In fact, every piece of it was useless except for its body that, although scratched, dented, and stained, was still of a quality in material and fabrication that can't be easily duplicated these days. All it needs is to be carefully refinished and restored, matched with contemporary parts and then surrendered to someone who will take better care of it than did its original owner.

It is a wonderful moment to see someone, especially a young person, bring life to an instrument that was, a few months before, regarded as nothing more than refuse. As the union of old art and new parts, it will make music again. Rather like our shared life of faith, which is also a combination of older arts and newer hands, it has the potential for intentions as sweetly offered as music.

This may be the reason that, of late, we have such an interest in re-discovering the traditional elements of our faith and liturgies, so that they don't end up in some form of spiritual dumpster, abused, neglected and discarded. Whether it is that highlighted through new discoveries in Biblical archaeology, prayer themes from our Celtic roots, or the Hebrew foundation of our liturgy, our worship works best when the congregation is as informed as it may be about the history and nature of faith.

During 2009, I hope that we can continue to offer a variety of adult education opportunities, to teach our youngsters prayers that will sustain them for the remainder of their lives, to plumb new meaning from traditional services, to re-establish venerable programs, and to hear again the words that once nurtured us in faith in a way that was transcendent.

As Jesus used the rabbi's traditional call to

gather his contemporary students, so we can blend the traditional with new expectations to produce and promote a viable and accessible proclamation. To sing a new song does not mean that we surrender the traditions that have brought us to this point, merely to blend that which has been with what may be.

Father Rob

ANNUAL MEETING



At our annual meeting on January 25, the following were elected:

Officers:

Senior Warden—Linda Lloyd
Junior Warden—Roy Bickley
Treasurer—John Lloyd
Clerk—Geoff Brown

Vestry Class of 2011:

Patricia Barton
Janet Walker

Convention Delegate: Geoff Brown
Deanery Delegate: Mary Anne Carley

Retiring treasurer Martha Nesbitt and retiring vestry members Mary Anne Carley and Tom Schindler were thanked for their service to Trinity.

Martha Nesbitt noted that Trinity finished 2008 with a deficit of \$20,000 and anticipates a 2009 deficit of \$21,600.

Voting members of the parish agreed to extend the vicar's letter of agreement through the end of December, 2009.

Rob announced the initiation of a healing ministry at Trinity. Several parishioners have indicated interest in being a part of this offering.

Al Dorf moved that we convey to the Diocese Trinity's belief that following the retirement of Bishop Smith, one Diocesan Bishop and one Suffragan Bishop (instead

of two Suffragans) would help to conserve scarce financial resources. The motion was seconded and approved.

Copies of the *draft* report of the Annual Meeting are available through the clerk of the Vestry.

On January 11, at the first of what we hope will be several baptisms at Trinity this year, we received into the household of faith Isabelle Margaret Dorf Barbour, daughter of Micaela and Jamie Barbour and granddaughter of Alexis and Al Dorf. Isabelle, her parents, and sister Sequoia live in Brownsville, VT. Welcome, Isabelle!

ADULT EDUCATION CONTINUES...



On Feb. 1 and 8 we will continue our Epiphany 2008 discussion of the Celtic church with Celtic prayer. Included in the presentation will be how the pre-Roman style of prayer continues to influence us today as well as prayers written by and for those of the Celtic church. Particular attention will be paid to how we might restore aspects of Celtic spirituality to our personal and parish prayers.

On Feb. 22 we will examine the Hebrew and Jewish roots of contemporary Christianity. Jesus was, of course, a Jew, and we will consider how the connection between the two faith traditions is evidenced in our scripture, prayers, and liturgy.

On March 1 and 8 we will continue where we left off in January with Biblical archaeology and how its continuing discoveries have affected our understanding of Scripture and the earliest Christian Church.

All meetings will be in the church after the 10:30 liturgy and will be 45 minutes in

length. There is no homework or extra readings, but bringing a Bible (or borrowing one from the pews) would be advisable.

LENT AT TRINITY



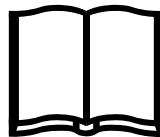
Trinity will mark the beginning of the Lenten season with the Office of Evensong and the traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner beginning at 6 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 24. There is no cost for the dinner, but a freewill offering will be taken for the OWLs Kitchen.

Shrove Tuesday is also known in parts of the world as Mardi Gras, ("fat Tuesday") and is part of the Carnivale ("good bye, meat") celebration. As Lent is a period of fasting during which, traditionally, only the plainest foods were to be eaten, the making of pancakes and doughnuts was an efficient way to use up sugar, milk, eggs and other "rich" foods in the household.

The word "shrove" is the past tense of "shrive" or the practice of confession, absolution and penance which was expected of Christians as they entered into the Lenten season.

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, the Eucharist will be celebrated with the imposition of ashes at noon and at 7 pm.

LENTEN BOOK GROUP



In our reading of Scripture, as in other areas of study, understanding is both broadened and deepened when the *text* under consideration is viewed within the *context* in which it was written.

As part of our spiritual discipline this Lent, Trinity will offer a book group from 12—12:45 on Sundays, March 22 & 29 and April 5. We will be reading Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan's *The Last Week; A Day by Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem*.

Using the Gospel of Mark as its guide, the book begins on Palm Sunday with Jesus's entry into Jerusalem and follows his journey to Easter Sunday. *The Last Week* depicts Jesus as giving up his life to protest power without justice and to condemn the rich who lack concern for the poor.

The Last Week should be available at local booksellers or at Amazon.com. If you order through Rob's blog, www.thecoracle.blogspot.com, Trinity will receive a percentage of the purchase price. Don't know how to order through The Coracle? Speak to the vicar and he will be glad to tell you how.

Sign up for the reading group with Alexis Dorf, who will be facilitating the discussion, at (860-364-0816), alexisdorf@sbcglobal.net or catch her on Sundays at church.

Reading Scripture is "working the earth of the heart" for it is only in a disturbed ploughed up ground that the seeds we plant for grain can grow.

—Kathleen Norris in *Amazing Grace*

DON'T FORGET OWLS KITCHEN!



During this economic downturn and at the coldest part of the year, the OWLs Kitchen food pantry is more than ever in need of low salt, low sugar, low fat foodstuffs for its shelves. Please remember to buy something for your hungry brothers and sisters on a regular basis and bring it to the food basket next to the baptismal font in the church.

Although we "officially" focus on the OWLs Kitchen on the first Sunday of each month, some folks find it more convenient—and a spiritual discipline that reminds them of their blessings—to buy one or two items each week and bring them to the food basket the following Sunday.



THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR:

WATER THAT SPEAKS

I recently had a dream in which I was observing a friend swimming in a pool with a loudspeaker in it. She told me she could hear instructions as she swam. Whether such a thing exists I don't know, but then, that's how dreams are. I awoke rather taken with the idea of "water that speaks" and that led me to some further thoughts on Baptism.

Yes, my mind really runs that way. Also, the whole thing probably was connected with the recent baptism of our second granddaughter at Trinity. And, as a Safe Church trainer, I review the baptismal covenants with workshop participants every time I do a presentation. So I am immersed, one might say, more than the average person in the subject of baptism and baptismal covenants.

While the water of baptism doesn't speak directly, of course, it does speak metaphorically. In our own baptisms, we (or our parents and godparents) renounced the forces that corrupt and destroy us from being the people God means us to be. I see this as directly related to Jesus's instruction that although we are in the world, we are to avoid being of the world.

And is that difficult! We are tempted on all sides and through all senses to enthrone ourselves as the center of our worlds. When we do that, we sense scarcity and incompleteness and focus much of our lives on getting whatever more it is that we think will make us whole and complete. We allow ourselves to be dominated by external forces, and that dooms our whole self-centered enterprise to failure.

However, in the sacrament of baptism we also are given something to fill the empty space that will be left when we renounce those evil forces, and that is the love and grace of Jesus. When we determine to live the abundant life he offers, that sense of

scarcity and incompleteness diminishes and is replaced by a sense of God's abundance and wholeness.

The baptismal covenant recognizes that we will make mistakes and that when we do, we need to repent (turn around) and return to God. We also agree to live by the Old and New Testament commandments to love our neighbors as ourselves and to strive for the world of justice and peace that is the ultimate goal of scriptural teaching.

The next time you attend a baptism, listen to the water. What do *you* hear?



TRINITY TIMES
FEBRUARY 2009

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
484 LIME ROCK RD
LAKEVILLE CT 06039