



TRINITY TIMES

MAY 2009

Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
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10 am –1 pm

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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:

This piece originally appeared in the Trinity Times about ten years ago. I received word the other day that its subject, the pseudonymous "Mr. Hershey", had died. So, in thanksgiving for his life, talent, and the moment of witness that he offered to an impressionable twelve-year-old acolyte, I'd like to re-print it.



When I was growing up, Mr. Hershey, our church organist, was also the organist at the old Municipal Stadium in Cleveland. During the baseball season he would leave immediately after services to drive downtown to make it to the stadium in time for the pre-game warm-up for the Cleveland Indians. It was always a tight schedule for him to keep, especially when our rector became "inspired" during a sermon and would preach longer than usual. This always seemed to happen on the Sundays of double-headers, when we could expect to listen to forty-five minutes of strident warnings about the sins of the flesh, the injustice of war, and the carelessness of Roman Catholic drivers. (The Roman Catholic parish was just across the street and, directly after Mass, the parishioners tended to leave their parking lot in a style rather like the first lap of the Indianapolis 500.)

As an acolyte, I would sit near Mr. Hershey and see him begin to squirm and look at his watch every few minutes. The longer the sermon, the more frequently Mr. Hershey glanced at his watch. The idea of a major league baseball game without an organist was as alarming to him, and to the acolytes, as a Roman Catholic motorist was to our rector. However long the rector preached, Mr. Hershey had to make up the time during the remainder of the liturgy. Thus, our hymns tended to be quick and sometimes, due to the rapid tempo, virtually un-sing able, even by the choir. I can remember when it seemed that, by the time I had found the correct page

in the Hymnal, the hymn was over.

One Sunday, Mr. Hershey no longer seemed in a hurry during the liturgy, and his playing was more relaxed and full than it had ever been. Even at the age of twelve, I noticed something had changed. When one of the adults asked him about it, he said that he realized the time had come for him to make a choice between the two positions and he had left his job as the stadium's organist. He knew that his gifts were better realized through his service to the congregation. It was in worship that he had the closest relationship to what he valued. At twelve, I thought that it was the craziest decision anyone could make, since his stadium job included free admission to every home game. In my middle age, I respect it more than I can describe.

Mr. Hershey's dilemma is a common experience in contemporary life, as we try to balance the conflicting demands of our spiritual and secular lives. Too often our tendency is to make them so separate that we begin to feel the stress of the conflict. One of the responsibilities of being a Christian is to find ways in which to remove this separation between our God-given gifts and their realization, so that our lives are extensions of our prayers and holy intentions. While we don't always have the luxury of so clear a choice as Mr. Hershey's, we are nevertheless presented with those choices, usually in small ways, on a daily basis. Perhaps there is nothing more that we need to ask of God as we move from Lent into Easter than to help us discern ways to remove the separation that causes our anxiety.

Rather than forcing us to abandon or squander our gifts, God gives us the opportunity to connect them through the saving action of his Son. When we make choices that remove the separation between our faith and our actions, we know a form of liberation that is the end result of all that is brought to us in scripture. We find ourselves in a place where our gifts are united with our faith, where our experience of Christian pilgrimage becomes an illumination not only for ourselves, but for others as well.

Father Rob



EFM OPEN HOUSE

On Wednesday, May 6, the Education for Ministry seminar group will hold its annual open house from 3-5 pm in the library.

EfM offers an extensive education in the Old and New Testaments, Church History and Theological Issues and Choices. The program is for those who are interested in deepening their knowledge and traveling a portion their spiritual journeys in the company of others who are open to discussion and exploration together.

For further information, please speak to Mary Anne Carley (macarley@sbcglobal.net).

HONOR YOUR MOTHER ON MAY 10!

On May 10 (Mother's Day) we will have an opportunity to honor our mothers, grandmothers, wives, partners and significant other women in our lives as we make a donation to the Church World Services Blankets Plus program.

We can imagine what pain it must cause those who cannot provide shelter and warmth for their families in the face of disaster. Blankets Plus Sunday will enable us to ease that pain for others, as Jesus has instructed us to do.

A donation of \$5.00 buys a blanket for use in disaster areas throughout the world. Blankets can be used in place of clothing, as tents, as tablecloths and in a myriad of other ways. What better way to say "thank you" to a special woman in your life?

The original Blanket Sunday program has been expanded to "Blankets Plus" as seed stock, tools, training for the construction trades and microloans have been added to the services provided.

Checks made out to *CWS Blanket Sunday* are tax deductible and may be deposited in

the Alms Basin or given to the Vicar. Questions? Comments? Please speak to Alexis Dorf or alexisdorf@sbcglobal.net.

ASCENSION EVENSONG

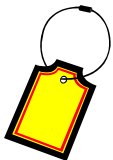
As we approach the end of the Easter Season, Christine and the choir are preparing the music for the Ascension Evensong on May 21 at 6 pm. Evening Prayer is a wonderful office for closing the day, and Evensong makes it transcendent! Give yourself a gift and plan to attend this beautiful service.



VICAR'S FORUM RESUMES

The popular archaeology series in the Vicar's Forum will resume on May 24 after the 10:30 liturgy. Rob will be discussing important discoveries of the last 200 years that either reconcile or challenge our Biblical beliefs.

On May 31, more recent archaeological discoveries will be addressed. Come and bring your questions!



ANNUAL TAG AND BAKE SALE

It's ba-a-a-ck! The annual Memorial Day Giant Tag and bake sale will be held on Saturday, May 23 from 10-2 in Walker Hall.

Books, CDs, DVDs, kitchen ware, bed and bath linens, framed posters and pictures, costume jewelry, bric a brac, *gently used* children's toys, furniture in good condition, gardening goods— are all welcome. **No clothing, pocketbooks or shoes.**

All donated items may be left in Walker Hall. Questions? Call Ginny Dildine (860-824-7455).

Concurrent with the tag sale is the spring bake sale. We need cupcakes, cookies, quick breads, pies, brownies and whatever

else your baked specialty might be. Please let Alice Tweed (860-435-2058) know what you will bring.



MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC

Trinity will welcome summer with its first potluck picnic of the season on Saturday, May 23 at 6 pm. Al Dorf and John Lloyd will be turning the steaks; picnic goers provide the salads, breads, desserts and other side dishes.



This is a great opportunity to catch up with friends you haven't had a chance to chat with for a while and to sample some of the wonderful foods that Trinity cooks turn out for these gatherings. Extended family, friends and neighbors are welcome!

Please let Al Dorf know (860-364-0816) that you will be coming so that we'll have enough steak for all. If you prefer something else grilled, bring it along and our chefs will be happy to cook it for you.

PRAYER CHAIN



At the request of several parishioners, we will resurrect the Trinity prayer chain. A prayer chain is a network of folks who receive prayer requests and thanksgivings, forward them immediately to the next person in the network and pray for each request for a period of two weeks. If desired, a request may be renewed as often as needed.

We are planning to run this prayer chain by email; however, phone participation is always possible if requested.

All requests are confidential, and requests may be made for anyone at all. Membership at Trinity (or any church!) is not required in order to have prayers offered for someone.

If you are interested in being a part of the Trinity prayer chain, please speak to Alexis Dorf (alexisdorf@sbcglobal.net). No meetings required!

THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR



This past Friday was the first really warm spring day, and Al and I went to Vermont to meet our daughter Micaela and her daughters for lunch in Manchester. While Al and Micaela did something with baby car seats, Isabelle, age 7 months, and I sat on a blanket on the grass outside the restaurant.

Isabelle, as is her wont, was wearing only one sock. And is also her wont, she was trying her darndest to stand on her own two feet. So I sat with my knees bent to make her a support frame and held her by her waist. Eventually the sockless foot wandered onto the grass. She stopped all movement and was totally still. Then she put her foot back on the blanket and tried the foot wearing the sock on the grass. That foot came back and the sockless one again went onto the grass. And then Isabelle bent way over and visually inspected this whole new “flooring”. She plopped onto her bottom and reached for the grass. Unlike her blanket or toys, it slipped through her fingers. She tried again. No luck. But she kept at it until she had a few blades, which, of course, she tried to eat. Grass. A whole new experience. Isabelle was fascinated.

I don't think about the grass much, other than when it needs to be mowed or my horse is digging it up to make a dirt bath for himself in the paddock. Grass is a given part of the landscape in Northwest Connecticut, and I don't notice it anymore. My life is lived so much in the fast lane that sometimes I barely can remember what I did in the morning, much less what I did two or three days ago. And at that warp speed mode, I miss a lot. So perhaps one of my spring resolutions should be to really look at what is around me, to enjoy spring's emergence from winter's long hibernation, and to spend more time with Isabelle, looking at the grass.

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