



TRINITY TIMES

JUNE 2009

Trinity Episcopal Church

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

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK:

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. [Romans 13:12]



Public ceremonies always cause me some confusion as I'm never sure what to wear. No, this isn't like a teenage girl preparing for a prom. In my case, different events require different attire. Depending upon the occasion, I have some very diverse uniforms from which to choose. If it's as a school chaplain, I have a remarkably elaborate, British-influenced academic gown and gold-tasseled tam; as I serve as both chaplain to a fire department and the merchant maritime, I can be in either "fire blue" or crisp, nautical whites. If simply appearing as your vicar, it may be in a solemn black or gray suit with clerical collar. If speaking before an ecumenical group, I may forgo the collar for a trendy necktie. One of the times I was giving the invocation at Lime Rock Park, I was encouraged to wear a shirt that said "Pirelli Tires". [Of course, on that occasion I was posing with the Pirelli calendar girls for a photo. Please don't tell the Canon to the Ordinary.]

What has always been true, regardless of the outfit, uniform, or occasion, is that whenever I have been invited to serve it has been in the same role. Be it a parade, graduation, or solemn remembrance of a long past event, whether specifically or marginally Christian, or ecumenical in the broadest sense of the word, the gathering invites me to set into context the event. In other words, the community seeks to appeal to God for direction, blessing, or at least benign observance, and to mark the occasion as something more than casual and temporal.

One of the features of the season of Pentecost, which we

now enter with untangled language and dramatically descending Spirit, is the union that exists between all believers when, regardless of occasion, we gather to mark an event or an intention for the advance of the community. Uniforms, headgear, the specificity of gathering, and the wording of prayers all represent a superficial difference; union is realized as all are occasions to seek God's grace and aid and to act on the teachings of Jesus.



This is what was encountered on that first day of Pentecost, the day that some consider the "birthday of the Church", but all regard as the start of something wholly realized through a relationship with God through Jesus, now made complete in the moment of ascension, and given to us as an eternal gift, not to savor in a niche of similarly-minded folks, but to challenge through its offering to others in as many situations and styles as possible. This is why the season of Pentecost is the longest of the year, for it reinforces how all of us, regardless of the symbolic "uniform" we might don, are always adorned in an armor of light that transcends and makes complete all common human endeavor. Or, as a beach prophet once said to me in his moment of metaphysical clarity, "Dude, it's one wave, but we all surf it" And he was wearing a wetsuit and shell necklace.

Father Rob

THANKS AND A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

...to Christine, the choir and additional singers for a transcendent Evensong on the Feast of the Ascension. What music! What an experience!

...to Ginny Dildine and Alice Tweed, along with all their helpers, for another successful Memorial Day tag and bake sale. Well done!

...to Al Dorf for providing the steaks for the Memorial Day potluck supper, and to all who provided the "fixins" and the trimmings to go

with the dinner!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TRINITY!



Appropriately enough, we will celebrate Trinity's birthday on Trinity Sunday, June 7. To mark the occasion, we will hold a picnic lunch after the 10:30 liturgy.

As usual, we are invited to bring salads, desserts, bread and drinks for the common table. Plan to join us—and bring a friend!

VALE, BISHOP SMITH



The Right Reverend Andrew Smith, Bishop of CT will pay his final official visit to us on Sunday, June 21, the "snow day" for his original planned visit last December. The Bishop will be the celebrant and preacher at the 10:30 service and we will have an opportunity to extend our famous Trinity hospitality to him at the coffee hour.

Please come on June 21 and thank Bishop Smith for his service during an often difficult and sometimes tendentious tenure!

WELCOME, FRANCESCA!



In between celebrating Trinity's birthday and our visit from the Bishop, we will welcome into the household of faith Francesca Comstock Di Martino Blanco, daughter of Catherine Di Martino and Daniel Blanco and much adored granddaughter of our own—you guessed it! - Emily Di Martino.

Francesca will be baptized on June 14 at the 10:30 service. We welcome her —officially— as a member of Trinity and of Christ's body, the company of all faithful believers.

SUMMER NOTES

Whether we will be having “vacations” or “stay-cations” this summer, there will still be the regular bills to pay at Trinity. Please be sure to keep your pledge payments up to date over the summer months, and don't forget the OWLs Kitchen! Folks have to eat all year round.



The ministries of ECW are supported in part by the ongoing book sale in Walker Hall. Save yourself some money (and donate it in the alms basin!) by buying your summer reading for \$1.00 at the tables in Walker Hall. When you are finished, return the book so someone else can buy it. (No, this is not a deposit/return proposition).

Our average Sunday attendance in 2009 has been 65 people. Can we increase that number over the summer? We can if we each bring a friend or neighbor to church!

SUMMER SPORTS



Trinity's unofficial sports coach (and webmaster and choir member, and hospitality team captain) Geoff Brown reports that we will offer two opportunities for Sunday Summer Sports this year. In July we will have t-ball in the field and in August it will be volleyball.

Each program begins at 10:00 am with a brief worship service for the youngsters, continues with play and is completed when the children join the adults in church for the Eucharist.

Trinity children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors and friends are all invited to participate. Those not attending the Eucharist must be picked up by their parents or other adults by 11:15.

Questions? Comments? Contact Geoff at geoff@betweenthelakes.com or 860-824-0640.

VICAR'S FORUM

The vicar's forum continues on June 14 at noon in the library, with a final visit to both ancient and more recent Biblical archaeological sites.

THOUGHTS FROM THE TRACTOR



This month I, along with two others who are members of the Trinity Lime Rock branch of the Education for Ministry program, will graduate at the Cathedral in Hartford. EfM is a distance learning program originating at Sewanee and is offered to those wanting a theological education but not seeking ordination.

For four years (!) we have met weekly during the academic year for two hours in the Trinity library, and during that time have read the entire Bible (with commentaries), studied Church history and been introduced to the major figures of 20th Century theology. Parishioner MaryAnne Carley is the EfM mentor for this area of Connecticut, which means that she guides us through our theological reflections and says “it's time to move on” regularly when we get sidetracked on this or that issue.

Every week we have discussed our readings and tried to find the places where the readings and study material assigned to group members in different years of the program find common ground. We have taken turns offering a story, a scripture passage, a poem, a song, and even a cartoon as the basis for a theological reflection. Who can recall a similar incident or story to the one being related? What feelings/thoughts does the presentation bring up for you? What is a metaphor for the story? (We've gotten *really good* at metaphors!) What is the world like in that metaphor? What does our culture say? What do our Biblical traditions say about that world? What do we say? What are the implications for what we have discerned? After the theological reflection we write a collect similar to those recited in the Sunday liturgy: O God.....we ask.....in order that....in the name of.....Amen.

What has been most valuable for me as a member of the EfM group has been the context into which the material has been placed. I now have, for example, 70 CE, the year of the final destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, as firmly anchored in my mind as 1066 and the years my children were born. I have been able to follow the rise of Christianity from the followers of The Way to the Jesus Movement to the departure of the new sect from the traditional Judaism in which it arose. I have become more aware of the "tweaking" of Scripture by the various copyists and redactors, depending on whom they were hoping to attract and to influence. I have learned to differentiate the several "Paul" s that appear in the Epistles attributed to him.

I have begun to understand the coalescing of doctrine and dogma from the huge variety of approaches that were present in the first years. I have some idea of why the different phrases of the Nicene Creed were incorporated into that statement, and I know the significance of the *filioque* clause in the split of the Eastern and Western churches.

I have wondered who Jesus was before Christianity got hold of him, and that has led me to reading a number of books outside the EfM course work, including several on early Judaism and the rabbinic traditions as well as some material on Islam. As they say, one thing leads to another.

For further information about EfM (for which the commitment is only one year at a time), speak to Mary Anne, Jane Canfield, Norma Wright or myself.

-Alexis Dorf

CONGRATULATIONS TO LYNN AND BILL ON THE BIRTH OF
THEIR BABY GIRL!

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