

Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
703 South Main Street (office at 701)
Athens, PA 18810
The Rev. Canon Edward L. Caum, Rector

Office: Voice and Fax: 570-888-5715; Rectory 570-888-0076
ned.caum@ecunet.org or caums@clarityconnect.com
Web Site: <http://trinityathens.baka.com>

Easter Season - May - 2004

New Life

After what might be construed as the longest winter ever, Spring is finally, thankfully, here.

New life is everywhere. Windblown robin's egg shells are scattered in the grass, dandelions have emerged in great numbers, the daffodils and tulips are at their peak and the lilacs have burst forth and promise to bloom in a matter of days, it seems.

Most of you escape the daily deluge of spirited debate between church leaders on the internet. But you might be interested to know that one of the arguments as of late was about whether or not Jesus actually physically arose from the dead. Surprisingly, this was a nice break from the ongoing arguments about sexuality and Bible literalism. Those who vehemently disagree about the politics of the church have found themselves surprised and pleased that they do agree on this question:

If Jesus did not bodily rise from the dead; Christianity would have no basis. There would not be 2000 years of history. It would have faded away, or been relegated to myth.

New life. Spring is the yearly reminder not only of the new life in this temporal world in which we live, but reminds us of new life spiritually. New life in the Risen Christ; everlasting life. Freedom from fear, freedom

A Reflection

from pain, freedom from death. That's a lot to swallow, isn't it? But, each of us can point to times in our lives when we've glimpsed that promise. Each of us knows, in the deepest parts of our hearts that there is more than this sometimes sad life.

Remember that, and rejoice!

In our life at Trinity, Spring brings new life to our old church building. After 144 years, it is showing some stress. You have, or will have, received a letter from our senior warden, John Schoonover, about our building.

While we know that who we are at Trinity is not the building, nevertheless, the building is where we gather and are fed; the place we are strengthened to go out and do the work God has given us to do. It is the place we are baptized, confirmed, married and where, at the end, our lives are celebrated. It ties us together in a way we don't often think about.

You'll be hearing more about the building renovations in the months to come. Our building committee is working closely with the architect to save the building and to make it safe and welcoming for everyone.

In the meantime; celebrate Spring ... celebrate the new life you see all around you. Pray for peace, cherish each other and come together on Sundays for renewal and new life.

Barbara Caum

Does Your Church Fill All Mugs?

By Bishop Paul V. Marshall

My friend Bob loves coffee. He also drives a lot. Like many people who share those traits, he has collected a variety of mugs that fit in the holders of his car. He starts the day with a clean mug and stops at various coffeesellers to have it refilled as his day goes on. The refillable coffee mug is a convenience all around: Bob has a cup with insulation and a handle, the coffee vendor saves the cost of the paper cup, and the environment is spared further strain. For years this daily pattern has gone smoothly from the first jolt of caffeine in the morning to the more soothing blends of coffee taken in the afternoon and evening.

Until last week. A young man in a high-end coffee place where he often gets his mug filled decided that because Bob's mug that day was from a donut store it was not worthy of this particular coffee chain, and so refused to fill Bob's mug. Being a calm and gentle man, Bob simply ordered a large cup of coffee, and as the young man rang it up, poured it into his mug. I'd love to say that he left the empty paper cup on the counter, but Bob is also considerate of those around him and did not leave a mess.

As I consider the other ways this scene could have played out, especially if a less calm person had been there, I admire Bob's behavior very much. He wanted the coffee and did what it took to get it without starting a fight.

Religious groups exist in part because they believe they have something valuable to give the world. Time after time, however, sociological studies indicate that religious people are very hesitant, on a local congregational level, to share with people who are different, whose mugs may come from the wrong shop, so to speak. Race, economics, class, and other distinctions work themselves out in many ways, some quite subtle. Fine points of theology can be magnified to become litmus tests that simply reinforce the group's need to be by itself and not have to contend with what challenges the group's illusion of

certainty and stability.

Nonetheless, Bob's approach can work. A woman, "Lorraine," recently said to me of her church, "everyone was very nice to me to me on the surface, but it was four years before anyone took me seriously as a person." She had simply been persistent because she wanted the "coffee," so to speak, and decided to outlive the congregation's resistance to a new and different person. Like Bob, Lorraine decided that confrontation was not the answer in her case. Where Bob outsmarted the clerk, Lorraine outlasted the exclusionary tendencies of the congregation.

Bob and Lorraine were whole enough to take care of themselves well and get what they needed. Whether people are trying to sell their brand of coffee or promote a religion, they must embrace the fact that people will appear with mugs that may be different. The hard question for religious communities is whether they are willing to fill whatever mugs are brought to them. Had the young man in the coffee shop been a little less afraid of what was different, he would have kept a customer. Many congregations complain about "revolving door syndrome." They have lots of visitors and consider themselves very friendly, but nobody stays. When churches undertake the discipline of learning about the ways they unconsciously exclude, the ways that power is just as unconsciously kept in small circles, they may find that the doors have stopped revolving. Imagine your place of worship with a sign saying, "We'll fill your cup, no matter where you bought it."

[This is Bishop Paul's May column for secular newspapers. It is usually different from his column in *Diocesan Life*. It will be published this Saturday in *The Morning Call* -- and has been sent to every daily and many weekly papers throughout our 14 counties. If the column does not appear in your paper, you might talk with an editor about that, refer them to me, or point the editor to "Sermons and Columns" at www.diobeth.org where an archive of some six years of these columns may be found. Your editor may say that if he publishes Bishop Paul's columns, he/she will have to publish columns by every other bishop and head of a judicatory. You might ask how many send columns to the paper - and suggest that perhaps the decision to publish should be made on the basis of quality and broad appeal to readers of whatever denomination.]



Trinity Episcopal Church - May 2004

Easter Season

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Trinity Prayer</i> 5/2 Norma Duddle, Jean & Jerry Dolan; 5/9 Bill Ewing, Jeanne Ewing; 5/16 Charles & Virginia Ford, Robert and Nancy Franks; 5/23 George & Ingrid Garver, Ed Gilbert; 5/30 Barry Goldsmith, Patricia Gurney</p> <p><i>Diocesan Prayer Cycle</i> 5/2 St. Alban's, Sinking Spring, Karl Kern, rector, Diane Zanetti, priest associate, Charles Beem, associate priest; 5/9 Good Shepherd, Scranton, Eric Bergmann, rector; Good Shepherd/St. John Evangelist, Milford, William McGinty, priest in charge; 5/16 Christ Church, Reading, Alan Mead, interim rector, R. Jane Williams, priest associate, Lois Bartlett, minister of visitation; St. Paul's, Montrose, Elizabeth Moulton, rector; 5/23 Christ Church, Stroudsburg, Elizabeth Haynes, rector; Christ Church, Susquehanna, Canon Carol J. Horton, rector; 5/30 Christ Church, Towanda, Maureen Hipple, rector, Hazel Hunt, deacon; The Church Seminaries and those preparing for the ordained ministry</p>						
<p>2 4th Sunday of Easter 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 9:45 Godly Play 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p>9 5th Sunday of Easter 8:00 Holy Eucharist I Vestry Meets 9:45 Godly Play 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour <i>T.J. Smith; Hazel & Ron Hunt</i></p>	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p>16 6th Sunday of Easter 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 9:45 Godly Play 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>23 7th Sunday of Easter 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 9:45 Godly Play 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour <i>Ginny Ford</i></p>	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p>30 Day of Pentecost 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 9:45 Godly Play 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary <i>David Bivins</i></p>	<p><i>Anglicans Around the World</i> 5/2 Province of the Indian Ocean, The Most Rev. Remi Joseph Rabenutina, primate. Seminars and schools of theology that train clergy and laity in the Christian faith. 5/9 The Church of Ireland, the Most Rev. Robert Eames, primate; 5/16 Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Holy Catholic Church in Japan), The Rt. Rev. David Shoji Tani, acting primate; 5/23 The Anglican Communion, the Anglican Consultative Council, the Secretary General, the Anglican Communion Office staff; 5/30 The communication of God's good news throughout the world. <i>Diocese of Kajiō Keji</i> 5/2 Congregation at Mondikolok; 5/9 Kiri archdeaconry, Congregation at Adire; 5/16 Congregation at Aire; 5/23 Congregation at Aire; 5/30 Congregation at Bamure; <i>The Diocese of Meath and Kildare</i>, Richard Clarke, Bishop.</p>				

A Diocesan Celebration

Most of you know that our Archdeacon, The Venerable Rick Cluett, has announced his retirement, beginning June 1. Since Rick's ministry has touched many lives and parishes during his more than 26 years in the Diocese, the Bishop and Diocesan Council invite you to a time of thanks, recognition and "fare well" to honor his faithful service.

Sunday, June 27, 2004, 5 to 8 p.m., Genetti's, Wilkes-Barre.

You'll find a form to make your reservation in this month's Diocesan Life and we'll include it in the next few weeks' bulletins.

Come celebrate! If you have photos, articles or notes, send them to Karen Knisely, 3465 Kipling Circle, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Deadline for reservations is June 21, 2004.

Our Gardens

In the course of the building renovations, we may need to rearrange the church gardens. We'll need expert advice on that. One of the issues is drainage around the walls. Do you know how to save the peonies on the south side of the building? Gardening experts needed!

Coffee Hour Hosts

Sign up to host a coffee hour at 11 on Sundays. There's a clipboard in the parish hall kitchen. Pick up a coffee cake or donuts and share them with us. Coffee will be made already, all you need to do is set out the food. Plenty of folks will be around to help you clean up. And Thanks! Coffee hour is a good time for all.

Prayer List

It's time to update the prayer list. Look for a new one on the back table. Please add names.

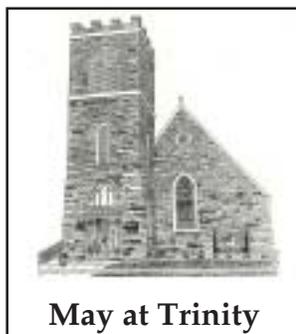
Coming Events

Pentecost Sunday, May 30 - One of the major celebrations of the church year. A day for baptisms, and the day we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to God's people. We'll have a wonderful celebration. The liturgical color for the day is red, so please find something red to wear.

Trinity Sunday, June 6 - Our name day. We'll process with our banner and our "kite" and sing all our favorite hymns for the day (brush up on "Holy, Holy, Holy")

Summer Schedule begins June 13. One service each Sunday at 10. If your schedule doesn't permit you to join us, remember that the Church of the Redeemer has an 8 o'clock service through the summer.

Trinity Episcopal Church
703 S. Main Street
Office: 701 S. Main
Athens, PA 18810



May at Trinity