

Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Athens, PA 18810
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Epiphany - Lent - February - 2005

Lent - Already?

Lent is very early this year ... and the way things are going this winter, it may be much like 1994, when we wrote "Happy Easter" in three feet of snow with the left over egg dye.

Determining when Easter occurs is an interesting Lenten factoid ... you'll find tables in the Book of Common Prayer beginning on page 880, with references to the golden number and other esoteric things. However, the rule is that Easter is always the first Sunday after the full moon that falls on or after March 21; it cannot occur before March 22 or after April 25. This year it's March 27. And then, one doesn't just count back 40 days to determine Ash Wednesday, because Sundays are always celebrations of the resurrection and so do not count (note that Sundays that occur during Lent are called Sundays IN Lent, not OF Lent). Take the Sundays out of the equation and we end up with Ash Wednesday this year on February 9.

We are pleased that this Ash Wednesday, Bishop Paul will be making his annual visitation to us at Trinity. Our service will begin at 7 p.m. We've said before that if the Episcopal Church had Holy Days of Obligation, Ash Wednesday would be one.

I remember having a conversation years ago with Bishop Paul about Lent. I told him I thought it was depressing and he seemed surprised. Here's an excerpt from his February column in *Episcopal Life*:

Let me be the first to say I like Lent.

I like slowing down the many distractions of life. I like focusing on important truth, reading and praying more while talking less. Seinfeld re-run junkie that I am, I look forward to annual un-plugging of the television and simplifications of diet that make room for Lenten work.

Lent never fails to bring me hard questions, some acutely painful, that tune my soul for Easter's shout of new reality.

Read the rest of it when your issue arrives. Bishop Paul, as always, says it beautifully.

We'll prepare for Lent by once again holding a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 8 at 6.

We'll observe the beginning of Lent with on Ash Wednesday with Bishop Paul: Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at 7 p.m. If you need a ride, please call the church office.

During the Sundays in Lent our worship will be Holy Eucharist, Rite I, and we'll begin the first Sunday in Lent with the Great Litany.

This season is one of self-examination and denial, but it is also a wonderful opportunity for outreach. What can you do to help others? Who is lonely and would love a visit or phone call? Who needs help with basic necessities? Take the opportunity to be Jesus in the world.

You are invited to a holy and blessed Lent.

Vision and Mission - a mandate

Diocesan Convention this past fall approved a wide-ranging evangelism resolution. The first part of this asks each parish to come up with a seven word phrase that describes why they are a church. In the early 1990's we developed our Vision/Mission statement in a workshop. It was a valuable experience and we read that statement each week in our bulletin:

Trinity Church is God's Episcopal people in Athens. With God's love and with the direction of the Holy Spirit our mission is to involve everyone in worship, outreach, study and prayer. Empowered by God's grace, we strive to foster a caring Christian community which supports us in our Baptismal vows: To seek and serve Christ in all people

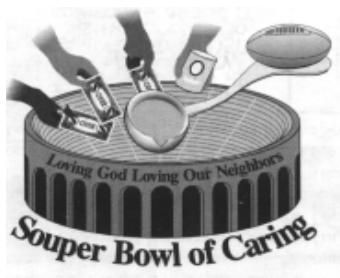
How can we best distill this into 7 words? We have a suggestion, what do you think? This will be our coffee hour topic on February 6.

To seek and serve Christ in all people
(yes, it's 8, but close)

Souper Bowl of Caring

What used to be a January event has migrated to February as the Super Bowl date has changed. This national program benefits local charities. Our donations go to the Valley Food Pantry.

Just a dollar for each member of your household goes a long way. February 6th.



Actions of our Annual Meeting

With heartfelt thanks, we happily announce that the current vestry has agreed to serve another year:

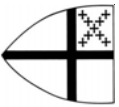
John Schoonover, Senior Warden
Mark Hollywood, Junior Warden
Nancy Bresett, Treasurer
Laura Cama, Clerk
Barbara Barry
Ray Bresett
Patricia Gurney
Trula Hollywood
Carla Ross

The proposed budget for 2005 was accepted by the parish. There are extra copies in the church.

Much of the meeting was a follow up on what will happen when Trula is ordained and Ned finally retires. While being church is about being Jesus to the world, expenses go on, and there are nuts and bolts tasks that need to be done so that our worship life is rich. Coming together each week is the strength that makes us able to "seek and serve Christ in all people."


Your newsletter editor/parish administration/utility infielder was not present for the meeting. However, she will continue to do the tasks that she does now, while training others to take them on in the future. She has no plans to leave the area.

However, it is time to think about what gifts you might have that fit the needs of the church. For example, are you good at organization? You might consider taking on the task of preparing the servers' schedule. Do you like to putter? Take over being in charge of light bulbs and tightening the screws that keep the pews in place. Love music? Work with Kay on choosing hymns and planning special music. Have a talent for finances? Work with the vestry on budget. Church is about being Christ to the word. Keeping our church growing and moving is about sharing your gifts.



Trinity Episcopal Church - February 2005

Epiphany
Lent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Trinity Prayer Cycle</i> 2/6 Bill Ewing, Jeanne Ewing 2/13 Charles and Virginia Ford, Bob and Marguerite Franks 2/20 George and Ingrid Garver, Dan and Marnie Gerhart 2/27 Ed Gilbert, Barry Goldsmith, Patricia Gurney</p>		<p>1 6:30 p.m. The Archdeacon and the Assistant Treasurer meet with the Vestry</p>	<p>2 The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Christophany! through Sunday <i>Stephen & Mary Beth Paul</i></p>	<p>5 Bishop's School, St. Anne's, Trexertown <i>(these two are two!)</i> <i>Jonathan Tyler Ayres</i> <i>Alexandra Leigh Ayres</i></p>
<p>6 Last Epiphany Souper Bowl of Caring 9:15 Church School 9:30 Holy Eucharist II 10:30 Coffee Hour</p>		<p>8 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 6 </p>	<p>9 Ash Wednesday Bishop Paul's visitation, 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 First Sunday in Lent 9:15 Church School 9:30 Holy Eucharist I 10:30 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>14 <i>Ray Bresett, Jr.</i></p>	<p>15 <i>Stacey Coston</i></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Help for Sudan Conference, through Sunday <i>Virginia Bostwick</i></p>	<p>19 Bishop's School, St. Anne's, Trexertown</p>
<p>20 Second Sunday in Lent -----<i>Vestry Meets</i>----- 9:15 Church School 9:30 Holy Eucharist I 10:30 Coffee Hour <i>Janet Gurney</i></p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 <i>Adam Hunsinger</i></p>	<p>24 St. Matthias the Apostle</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 Third Sunday in Lent 9:15 Church School 9:30 Holy Eucharist I 10:30 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>28</p>	<p><i>Diocesan Prayer Cycle 2/6</i> Prince of Peace Church, Dallas, The Rev. Vivian Bennett, priest-in-charge. 2/13 St. Joseph Church, Pen Argyl, The Rev. Nicholas Albanese, priest-in-charge; 2/20 St. Gabriel's Church, Douglassville, The Rev. Canon Calvin C. Adams, rector; The Rev. Faith D'Urbano, assistant, The Rev. John T. Harvard, associate; 2/27 St. George's Church, Nanticoke, The Rev. Henry J. Pease, priest-in-charge; St. George's Church, Hellertown, The Rev. John J. Coble, interim,</p>				
<p><i>Kajo Keji, 2/6</i> The Congregation at Keny'ba, 2/13 The Congregation at Leikor; 2/20 The Congregation at Kiri; 2/27 Jolimo Orphanage</p>	<p><i>Anglicans Around the World 2/6</i> Pray for the work, ministry and witness of The Most Rev. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury - Almighty and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift: Send down upon the Archbishop of Canterbury the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and that he may continually please thee, pour upon him the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen. 2/13 Give thanks for the Diocese of Maine, Chilton Knudsen, bishop; 2/20 Give thanks for the Diocese of Manchester - Hulme (York, England), Stephen Richard Lowe, bishop; 2/27 Give thanks for the Diocese of Maryland, Robert Wilkes Ihloff, bishop, John Leslie Rabb, suffragan.</p>					

Home Communion

It's often hard for some of us to get to church on Sundays. In winter, it can be even more difficult. Fr. Ned, Trula or Carla are happy to come visit you and bring you communion after church on Sunday, or when it's convenient for you. Please call the office at 888-5715 to arrange a visit.

Food Pantry

The first Sunday of each month is when we bring donations for the Food Pantry ... non-perishable foods in unbreakable containers.

This is an important part of our outreach ministry, so please make a note on your calendar each month to either buy a few extra items at the store or go through your pantry.

Thank you, Patricia Gurney, for volunteering for this ministry, taking over from the Becks, who have retired.

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.

Get connected - our new URL

Point your browser to www.trinityathens.org for our calendar, pictures and a .pdf version of our newsletter.

Point your browser to www.diobeth.org to read a wealth of articles, sermons and news. You can join the diocesan mailing news list or interactive discussion, or check links to many sites with wonderful information.... from the Daily Office to the worldwide Anglican Communion.

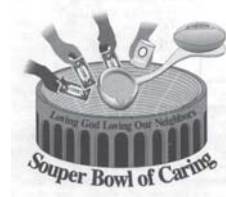
Trinity Times Online

Would you like to receive your copy of *Trinity Times* as a .pdf document rather than by paper mail?

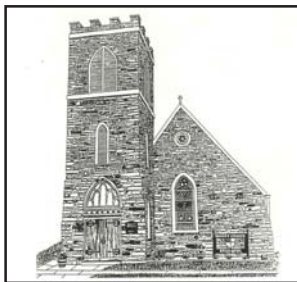
If so, please let us know. Send an email to **Trinity's new email address:** information@trinityathens.org. We already post the newsletter to our web site each month so it's available there. You could save a tree, save a stamp! Please consider it. Archives are also available.

Souper Bowl Sunday

is February 6. Bring a dollar for each member of your family to put into the soup pot; all proceeds benefit our local food pantry.



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February at Trinity

Bishop Paul visits on Ash Wednesday