

# Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church  
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The Rev. Canon Edward L. Caum, Rector

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The Rev. Trula Hollywood, Deacon

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## Easter - May - 2006

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Greetings,

I have a wonderful time at Clergy meetings. Every month there's a clergy bible study held in each region. This past week, there was one held in Towanda.

The Rev. Vivian Bennett brought up a story about a woman who went about asking people if they like Easter.

According to the story, after the woman asked this, she would then inquire of the person she was speaking with about what they knew about Easter. The answers she got were: "getting new clothes for the children, the Easter egg hunt, and, of course, the Easter bunny."

This woman then went on to tell people what Easter is really about. She opened their eyes. She was a witness to Christ's love.

This, of course, reminds me and others of Father Ned's oft heard statement, "The Easter bunny didn't die on the cross for you."

What a great evangelism story!

Can we Episcopalians evangelize? Of course we can. Evangelism is being a witness to Christ's love for us. What does it take to be a witness to others?

It takes faith. In the letter to the Hebrews faith is the assurance of things hoped for, and the conviction of things not seen.

In a court of law, we cannot be called eyewitnesses. We weren't there when Christ died on the cross. We didn't personally see the sacrifice.

Our faith "kicks in" our conviction of things not seen. As Episcopalians, we develop our faith through reason, tradition and scripture.

Can we share our reason, our tradition and the scripture with others? Put in that manner, it sounds doable.

It is doable. We can call ourselves anything, persons of any denomination or none at all, but if we don't take seriously the brining of Christ's love to others, the dying on the cross was for nothing.

On May 6 there is a training being held in Towanda. The vision is that at least two lay people and a clergy person will undertake at least two evangelism projects between now and next Easter.

The training is to help us learn to become more welcoming to others and help to bring them into relationship with God. Bringing people into church brings people closer to God, but they must come back. Relationships don't develop in a onetime meeting.

I'm very happy to say that Trinity has a good start on evangelism plans for the next several months. There are currently three of us working on the plans. We need more hands to work and minds to plan. One of the ways we can make people feel welcome is to demonstrate that we can work together and love our church. Please plan on joining the evangelism committee. The next Trinity meeting is May 18th at 7 p.m. in the church parish hall.

Also, give me a call if you would like to attend the May 6th meeting.

From generation to generation, may each of us have the hands and hearts that can work together, love together, and pray together.

God's Peace,  
Deacon Trula

## Welcoming Children

We love having our children in church with us. But some mornings they are a little restless. We have two solutions for this.

One is a soft space in the back of the church with quiet toys and blankets.

The other is a nursery attendant in the Parish Hall. Unfortunately, we do not have one at present. Do you know of a responsible young person who might like to earn a little extra spending money for an hour on Sunday mornings? Please talk to Deacon Trula.

## Spring Clean Up Continues

Thanks to Trula, Barbara and Karen for getting the church yard in shape. Fanna will be donating mums from her yard to fill in the empty spots in the garden. Over the years, the mums that grow there have cross polinated ... what was once a riot of color is now all the same!

If you're making a recycling run some Saturday, the parish hall bin is overfull and there are many large cardboard boxes in the sacristy.

## First Quarter Pledge Statements

You may find an error on your first quarter pledge statement; if so, please talk to Carla. Some donations were recorded under last year's envelope numbers. If you find a discrepancy, Carla and Heather will be happy to work with you on a corrected statement.

Dear Mr. God

How do you feel about people who don't believe in you? Somebody else wants to know.

A Friend,  
Neil

(from Children's Letters to God, Marshall and Hample, 1966)

## Living Jesus

Our learning of Jesus cannot take place all at once, but can only grow over the course of time. Unlike the study of a merely historical figure, which comes to a resolution once all the evidence has been amassed and analyzed, our learning of Jesus continues over time as we engage the Spirit of the risen Lord at every moment. And unlike those Christians who claim to receive an immediate and adequate grasp of Jesus in a single instant of conversion -- a knowledge that need never be revisited or revised and that provides a blueprint for all subsequent actions -- we must claim a more modest process that goes on through every moment of life. Our fidelity is not to our past understanding but to the living Lord, which means our learning Jesus continues as long as we live.

Luke Timothy Johnson in *Living Jesus*  
(Harper San Francisco, 1999)

## Moving Toward General Convention 2006

Articles about our upcoming convention are already making their way into the secular press; some are informed and some are not. You're going to hear a lot about the meaning of Anglicanism, schism, inclusivity and more.

The Communication Department of ECUSA has prepared a series of bulletin inserts for the Sundays leading up to, and through, this year's convention. They include: "A History of Living the Questions," "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You," "To Serve You is Perfect Freedom," "Webs of Relationships formed by Love, Common Prayer," "O God, you have bound us together in a common life," "General Convention: part legislature, part family reunion," and "The Episcopal Church elects its Presiding Bishop - today."

We will save copies of these if you miss a Sunday, or they available for download at [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org).



# Trinity Episcopal Church - May 2006

Easter

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1 St. Philip and St. James</b>  <i>Mary Patterson</i>	2	3	4  <i>Patrick Kelley</i>	5	<b>6 Evangelism Training</b> , Christ Church, Towanda  <i>Kim Murray Noah Gurney</i>
<b>7 Easter 4</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour 11:00 Eucharistic Visitors' Brunch, Tomasso's 4:00 Confirmation (Towanda)	8  <i>Cindy Spezialetti</i>	9  <i>T.J. Smith Hazel &amp; Ron Hunt</i>	<b>10 ECW Annual Meeting</b> , Kirby House	<b>11 Pre Convention Hearing</b> , Prince of Peace, Dallas, 7 p.m. <i>Kathy &amp; Kevin Ayres Savannah and Chandler Paul</i>	12  <i>Barry Goldsmith</i>	13  <i>Colleen Barton</i>
<b>14 Easter 5</b>  9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour  <i>Cora Orshal</i>	15	<b>16 Clergy Day</b>	17  <i>Kristina Hooper</i>	<b>18</b> 7 p.m. Evangelism Meeting, Parish Hall	19  <i>Sharon Cole Phil Kelley Amanda Forbes</i>	20
<b>21 Easter 6</b>  9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour <b>Vestry Meets</b>  <i>Jeff Davenport</i>	22  <i>Patricia Gurney Martin</i>	23  <i>Virginia Ford</i>	24  <i>David J. Bivins</i>	<b>25 Ascension Day</b>	26  <i>Alyssa Catlin</i>	27
<b>28 Easter 7</b>  9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour	29	30  <i>Virginia Caum-Lake</i>	<b>31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	<b>Trinity Prayer Cycle</b> 5/7 Hermine Shapiro, Ann Zulkosky 5/14 Jake, Joanne, Nicole and Greg Armstrong 5/21 Kathy, Kevin, Alexandra and Jonathan Ayres 5/28 Ralph, Bonnie, Rose, Jeffrey, Chis and Justin Bailey		

*Anglicans Around the World* 5/7 The Anglican Church of Kenya; 5/14 The Anglican Church of Korea; 5/21 The Church of the Province of Melanesia; 5/28 Pray for the bishops and deputies of the Episcopal Church who will meet in General Convention in June, and for all the churches of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

**Diocesan Prayer Cycle** 5/7 Trinity&St. Philips, Lansford, The Rev. Robert Wellner, Stella Pispcky, Treasurer; 5/14 Christ Church, Forest City The Rev. Elizabeth W. Myers, Jack DeMark, senior warden; Trinity, Carbondale The Rev. Elizabeth W. Myers Jaki Sheare, senior warden; 5/21 St. Alban's, Sinking Spring The Rev. Karl Kern, rector; 5/28 Good Shepherd, Scranton The Rev. William Warne, interim

*Kajo Keji*, 5/7 The Congregation at Bamure; 5/14 The Congregation at Koiba; 5/21 The Congregation at Pomojo; 5/29 The Congregation at Sarajale.  
*The Diocese of Swaziland* Bishop Meshack Mabuza and the Diocesan AIDS Ministry.

**Food Pantry Sunday**

is the first Sunday of the month. Please bring non-perishable items in unbreakable containers and place them in the food basket. The next time you see a "buy one, get one free" sale, remember that there are hungry people everywhere, even here in the valley, and share your bounty.

**Sign up to host a Coffee Hour!**

You'll find a dated list in the kitchen.

**When you are ill**

Please, please let someone from the church know. Call Trula or Barbara at the church office. We care about you and want to be there to help in any way that we can. With the new privacy laws it is difficult for us to find out on our own.

Church office is 570.888.5715

Deacon Trula: 570.731.4280

Barbara's cell is 607.738.0183

**Confirmation this Sunday at 4**

Bishop Paul has returned from sabbatical and for the remainder of the season will celebrate regional receptions and confirmations. Ours is at Christ Church, Towanda, this Sunday, May 7, at 4 p.m.

Don't miss this service! Our own **Hermine Shapiro** will be confirmed on that day. Bishop Paul is a superb preacher, as many of you know from first-hand experience.

If you need transportation, call the church office.

**May Highlights**

Evangelism Training, Saturday, May 6, Christ Church

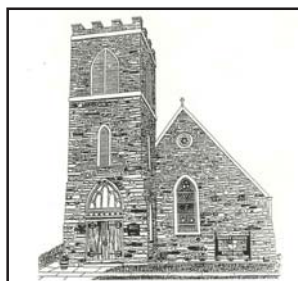
Confirmation at Christ Church, Sunday, May 7, 4 p.m.

Eucharistic Visitors' Brunch, Sunday, May 7, 11:00, Tomasso's

Thursday, May 18, 7:00, Evangelism Meeting

Sunday, May 21, Vestry Meets

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**May at Trinity**