

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. Trula Hollywood, Rector

Office: Voice and Fax: 570-888-5715; Rector: 570-731-4280
information@trinityathens.org
Web Site: www.trinityathens.org
The Rev. Canon Edward L. Caum, Assistant

Epiphany - Lent - February - 2008

Senior Warden's Report to the January, 2008 Annual Meeting

Today is January 20, and I'm writing after a busy week for Trinity. On Tuesday, we were visited by Archdeacon Stringfellow and today by Bishop Paul and Deacon George. Bishop Paul had some good ideas for us to consider that I'd like to talk about. But first, I want to mention an interesting coincidence of this day.

The Gospel for today was taken from John. In it John the Baptist reminds us of the Baptism of Christ (which we celebrated last Sunday) and the descent of the Holy Spirit "like a dove" onto Jesus. It also turns out that, when January 20 is not a Sunday, it is celebrated as the feast day of St. Fabian. Fabian was a third century Bishop of Rome who was eventually martyred by the Roman emperor Decius. Fabian was elected Pope by the Conclave in 236 after a dove flew in an open window and alighted on him. While it isn't too much to imagine that the Holy Spirit would manifest itself to identify the successor to Throne of St. Peter, what must have been truly shocking to the assemblage was that Fabian was a layman, and not even a noble one, but rather a humble farmer! A layman - someone just like us - became the 20th man to wear the Shoes of the Fisherman.

The coincidence, of course, is that this day brings us two appearances of the Holy Spirit as a dove - one descending on Jesus and one on a farmer. The power of these two stories for me is the idea that the Holy Spirit is available not only to Jesus or to priests and bishops of the Church, but to very ordinary people like you and me.

Which brings me back to our busy week. Both Archdeacon Stringfellow and Bishop Paul asked us to talk about how we are doing in Trinity and what we see in our future. We said that we were OK financially and that the church building was in good shape after some significant repairs. We told both of them that we were strong as a family (making it clear, when asked by the Bishop, that we were much closer to an Ozzie and Harriet family than to the Sopranos) and that Trula was doing a great job. We said we were showing some encouraging signs of growth (a confirmation today, a new family and some other visitors who spoke of wanting to return), but growth was still a concern.

The mention of growth (with perhaps not a lot of data to support a hugely positive view of it at Trinity) sparked a discussion in which Bishop Paul offered us a couple of good ideas. He asked about children and recommended that we have a few events each year just for the children of our parishioners as a way not only to involve the kids but also to strengthen our relationship with the parents. He also suggested that once a year each of us tell someone how important Trinity is to us and invite him or her to come to church.

Now I actually think that Bishop Paul might have been smiling to himself when he asked us to do this just once a year. I'd guess he's pretty sure that once we approach someone for the first time, and particularly if we are successful in getting him or her (or them!) to join us, we won't be able to stop at "once a year." Of course, there's a problem: this is not an easy thing to do

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for some of us. We don't wear our faith on our sleeves and we're not very comfortable sounding like we're proselytizing. But do you know what? There is help out there, and that brings me back to this Sunday's coincidence.

The windows weren't open in the parish hall today (way too cold) and I didn't see any doves, but I had the feeling that Bishop Paul was subtly reminding us that the same Holy Spirit that descended on Jesus and Fabian is there for us whenever we need it do to God's work. And there is nothing that can be counted closer to God's work than bringing people to know and love Him.

So here's what I think we should do. Let's all say to ourselves, "Once a year. I can do that. I can do that...with God's help."

And then let's do it...and grow!

John Schoonover

Annual Meeting News

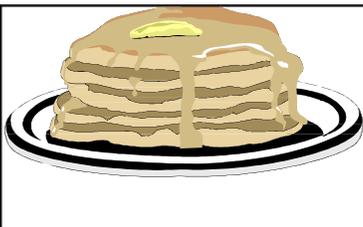
In case you missed it, we've given you the opportunity to read the Senior Warden's report in this newsletter. It's very good reading.

With a few additions, all reports were accepted, including the 2008 Budget, which includes a \$100 a week stipend for Mother Trula. We received a congregational development grant this year, and that along with the rental income from the rectory allows us to pay her, at least a little.

After years of service, Laura Cama requested to leave the Vestry. We thank her profoundly for all the work she has done as a member and for all the years she served as Clerk. Hermine Shapiro has also left the vestry as she is now living in Corning. The membership voted to reduce the number of vestrymembers to 6 and the Holy Spirit tapped Beverly Barton as our new vestry member, for which we give thanks to both of them. Patricia Gurney will be our delegate to Diocesan Convention in October.

The budget summary will be a regular feature in the newsletter from now on. It will run a month behind because of the time involved in the accounting. It will let you see how our financial health is here at Trinity.

	December	Year to Date	YTD Budget
Pledge Income	3,437	27,342	23,100
Investment Income	5,359	27,553	26,600
Total Income	9,641	75,207	62,186
Expenses	5,632	66,317	61,586
Net	4,009	8,891	600



It's that time of year again... **Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday** ... and that means lots of pancakes. The tradition is to use up all the

rich foods before the beginning of Lent when many people make changes to their diets. So join us at 6 ... or come at 5 to help cook, on Tuesday, February 5, bring your appetite and a friend!

Ash Wednesday is February 6

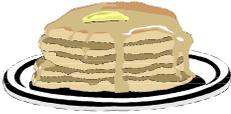
Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes will be at 7 p.m.at Trinity. If you cannot make it to an evening service, Church of the Redeemer has a service at noon



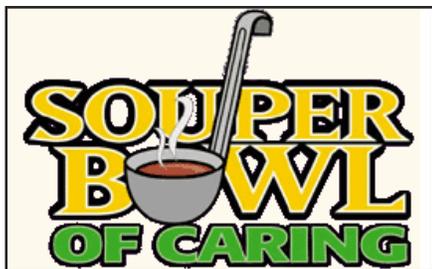


Trinity Episcopal Church - February 2008

Last Epiphany
Lent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Trinity Prayer Cycle</i> 2/3 Kathy, Kevin, Alexandra and Jonathan Ayres 2/10 Ralph, Bonnie, Rose, Jeffrey, Chris and Justin Bailey 2/17 Patrick, Barbara, Mike, Shelley and Jason Barry 2/24 Sean, Donna, Daniel and Savannah Barry</p>					1	2 The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
Don't miss "Bad Girls of the Bible" starting February 13!						
<p>3 Last Epiphany 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour</p> <p>SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!</p>	<p>4</p> 	<p>5 Shrove Tuesday 6 p.m. Pancake Supper, Parish Hall</p> <p><i>Jonathan Ayres</i> <i>Alexandra Ayres</i></p>	<p>6 Ash Wednesday 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes</p> 	7	8 <i>Hermine Shapiro</i>	9
<p>10 1st Sunday in Lent 10:00 Holy Eucharist 11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	11	12	<p>13 Book Study Bad Girls of the Bible, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>14 Bishop's Bible Study, Towanda, 10 a.m.</p>	15 <i>Stacey Coston</i>	16
<p>17 2nd Sunday in Lent ----Vestry Meets ----- 10:00 Holy Eucharist 11:00 Coffee Hour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clergy Retreat, 2/17-19, Mary Immaculate Seminary <i>Virginia Bostwick</i></p>	18	19	<p>20 Book Study Bad Girls of the Bible, 7 p.m.</p> <p><i>Jacob Bivins</i></p>	21	22	23 <i>Adam Hunsinger</i>
<p>24 3rd Sunday in Lent 10:00 Holy Eucharist 11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>25 St. Matthias the Apostle</p>	26	<p>27 Book Study Bad Girls of the Bible, 7 p.m.</p>	28	29	<p>March 1 - Training for Ministry Day, St. Stephens, Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre.</p>
<p><i>Anglicans Around the World</i> 2/3 The Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil; 2/10 The Anglican Church of Burundi; 2/17 The Anglican Church of Canada; 2/24 The Church of the Province of Central Africa</p>		<p><i>Diocesan Prayer Cycle</i> 2/3 St. Brigid's, Nazareth, The Very Rev. William Schenkel, priest-in-charge; 2/10 Prince of Peace, Dallas, the Rev. Peter Harer, rector; 2/17 St. Gabriel's, Douglassville, Canon Calvin Adams, rector; 2/24 St. George's, Nanticoke, The Rev. Henry Pease, priest-in-charge.</p>			<p><i>Kajo Keji</i>, 2/3 The Romogi Archdeaconry; 2/10 The Congregation at Bori; 2/17 The congregation of Kimu; 2/24 The Congregataion at Labale</p>	

February Highlights



Sunday, Feb. 3, Last Epiphany:
Put a dollar in the soup pot for everyone in your family and/or bring a food donation. All money and food collected stays in the Valley

Tuesday, Feb. 5, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6 p.m., Parish Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 6, Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 10, Worship Begins at 10 a.m.

Don't Miss the Bad Girls!

During Lent a book study will be held in the parish hall and led by Mother Trula. The book will be "Bad Girls of the Bible" by Barbara Essex. The first meeting will be Wednesday, February 13 at 7. If you are interested in joining the book club talk to Mother Hollywood. There are some books available for purchase at the church. The book can also be purchased on Amazon, where you can read a sampling, and in book stores. Call 888-5715 to register.

Here's a sampling of the chapters:
Eve: Willful or Wise?
Lot's Wife: Homicide or Suicide?
Rebekah: Deceptive or Direct?

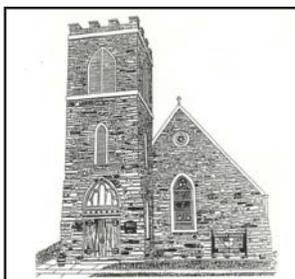
Our Service Time Changes February 10

Beginning with the First Sunday in Lent, our service time will change to 10 a.m.

At the Annual Meeting we discussed the fact that it is quite difficult for some of us to get to church by 9 a.m., especially during the winter months. So, we are making this time change on a trial basis. We may go back to 9 for the summer, but that has not been decided.

Anyone interested in becoming involved with the **Altar Guild**, please let Mother Hollywood know. This is a much needed ministry. It is not time consuming but very gratifying. Please consider if this is a ministry for you.

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February at Trinity

Our service time changes to 10 a.m. on February 10.