

# Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

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## Pentecost - November 2009

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Greetings,

I seldom use this column to comment on many issues beyond our community, the needs of our church and the needs others in our community. As you all know, my common theme is our role as disciples of Christ, our need to be active in this role and to always love each other.

There has been much discussion this week about Pope Benedicts welcome to disaffected Anglicans. It saddens me because I feel as if the "welcome" only serves as being divisive once more. Every church has issues with which its members do not agree. Churches and communities can live together even in light of those differences; that is, unless we choose not to accept those differences.

This month, after the Pope's announcement, I listened to Jim Naughton of Episcopal Cafe and the Diocese of Washington who was recently interviewed on NPR. Bill Lewellis from the Diocese of Bethlehem sent the link out on Ecunet with an excerpt I felt was worth sharing: *I think for Episcopalians, what we need to do in the wake of this announcement is to continue going out there and saying, look, we do offer very traditional liturgy, beautiful music, a style of worship that many people like. But we are a democratically governed church. We think men and women are equal at the altar, and we respect the dignity of gay and lesbian Christians. If that makes us outcasts, I think that that's a status that we embrace happily. So if what we're talking about here are people offering alternatives, I think Episcopalians offer that alternative to their Catholic brothers and sisters.*

If you have an opportunity to listen to the complete interview, I would highly recommend it.

The words quoted in this excerpt are exactly why I'm an Episcopalian. From the first time I stepped into the doors of an Episcopal Church, I felt welcomed. I wasn't rich, I wasn't particularly well educated when it

came to religion and we all know, I can't sing. But I knew, from that first moment, that I was seen as a valuable child of God.

When I became more aware of the democratic process, I was even more appreciative of the workings of my church. Obviously, I felt a need to become more educated, more involved and to follow God's call in my life. I also felt a need to be as honest as I could about who I am as a person. This is a church where people *can* be honest about themselves, bringing forth the gift of all their humanity into an accepting community.

In the Episcopal Church, there were and are so many possibilities for me and for many others, as Christian women and men. I am deeply sorry for those who no longer feel the Episcopal Church is the place for them. I pray they feel loved and cared for wherever they go. For me, the experience of being Episcopalian has offered me the chance to grow as a human being, as a Christian and as part of a loving community.

The lesson from last week was about the blind man, Bartimaeus, who approached Jesus even as others tried to quiet him. He knew Jesus reputation and would not be quieted.

As I write this, I think of Jesus' reputation; to listen, to love, to heal, to act and to teach everyone as equal and most importantly to give all of himself to others. I pray we will never be quieted as we strive to gain Jesus' reputation as our own; respecting the dignity of every person we encounter in our lives.

God's Peace,  
Mother Trula

***Dear Friends at Trinity,***

I have been quite the busy church mouse this month. After my hiatus from what could only be called the "Ah-Choo" Flu, I have been playing catch up all month. Where does the time fly? Sam, my youngest has been busy at Soccer Practice. I find myself busying myself in the kitchen canning vegetables for the long winter. I took some time out of my busy schedule and hid myself in that nice man John's luggage. I had a grand time at Diocesan Convention. The Festal Eucharist brought tears to my eyes, I came back and shared the news with all of my friends.

**Pat Gurney, John Schoonover, and Mother Trula all traveled to Convetion. John's notes can be read**

Reflections on Convetion, Submitted by John Schoonover, Senior Warden:  
Diocesan Convention – 2009

The 138<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Bethlehem was held at St. Stephens pro-Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre on October 9 & 10, with Trula, Pat and I in attendance. I'd like to share a few highlights. Happily, you will not find among them anything contentious. While there were half a dozen resolutions passed on subjects ranging from evangelism to clergy salaries, none of them generated even a whisper of discontent.

Bishop Paul began his address with a report on this year's General Convention. He noted that the Convention proposed full communion with the Moravian Church, reaffirmed our love for and commitment to Anglicans worldwide (as well as our intention to remain who we are as Episcopalians), and announced some cuts in the National Church budget that will result in some unfunded mandates for all the Dioceses. Bishop Paul also had some very nice things to say about Good Shepard's (Scranton) emergency shelter project, about Trinity's recent outreach clothing project, and the Diocesan resources available to us. He closed his remarks by pointing out that times of stress offer great opportunities to help others. "The path of service is blessed and leads to joy," he said, "Follow it joyfully, confidently, and expecting God to use our efforts."

Charlie Barebo spoke on the New Hope Campaign, reporting that \$3.9 million has been pledged and \$2.4 million collected, leaving us only \$200 thousand short of the goal. There have been three grants awarded to Parishes in our Diocese and such great progress has been made in Kajo Keji building schools and the college that Charlie predicts that the literacy rate there will be doubled in ten years! They are very grateful.

Friday afternoon's Choral Evensong was wonderful and the Festal Eucharist on Saturday morning was truly remarkable. It was a sung Mass, of course, but the setting was African, with accompanying drums and spectacular arrangements. Bishop Jack gave the sermon, full of his trademark humor. He closed with an inspiring admonition: "Do not lose heart. Bear more fruit. Recapture God's mission and claim it as our own."

If you are interested in more details, you can find the schedule, reports of the committees, details of the resolutions and the order of service for the Evensong and Eucharist in the folder on the Narthex. And Trula, Pat and I would be happy to talk with you about any of the activities.

John Schoonover

**below.**

That nice woman Pat is very exciting about something that has initials in it... hmmm let me think. Oh yes, UTO, United Thank Offering. I think this is a wonderful way to support their mission to: "Expand the circle of Thankful People."

**UTO: The United Thank Offering:**

The United Thank Offering is a personal and family devotional program of the Episcopal Church. It is the sum of our faily thanks for the blessings in our every day lives.

The UTO is an orginazation founded by women in 1889 and originally supportive of women missionaries. It has become a worldwide effort to meet compelling human needs and to expand the mission of the church- for

men, women and children throughout the world.

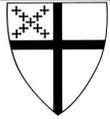
The United Thank Offering is a way for each person to expresss tangible thanks to God.

**Blue United Thank Offering Boxes will be available in the back of the church.**

There are many things to be thankful for my friends. One of those things that fills my heart, and that I am truly thankful for is my Trinity Church family.

In Closing may your Thanksgiving be filled with times shared with loved ones with glad hearts filled with gratitude for all God has given us!

With Love, **Sara**



# Trinity Episcopal Church - November 2009

Pentecost &  
Advent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 All Saints Day</b> 9:00: Holy Eucharist II 10:00: Coffee Hour	<b>2 All Souls Day</b>	<b>3</b> <i>Heather Martin</i> <i>Brandon &amp; Derek</i> <i>Coston</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <i>Norma Duddie</i>	<b>7</b> 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist II
<b>8 Pentecost 23 P-27</b> 9:00: Holy Eucharist II 10:00: Coffee Hour	<b>9</b> <i>Matthew Hollywood</i>	<b>10</b> <i>Jim &amp; Mary Patterson</i>	<b>11 Evensong at St. Stephens in Wilkes Barre with the Presiding Bishop 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <i>Ann Zullkosky</i>	<b>14</b> 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist II
<b>15 Pentecost 24 P-28</b> 9:00: Holy Eucharist II 10:00: Coffee Hour Vestry Meets <i>Carol Reed</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 For the Bible Tells Me So Presentation 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist II
<b>22 Last Sunday of Pentecost P-29</b> 9:00: Holy Eucharist II 10:00: Coffee Hour	<b>23</b>	<b>24 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00 p.m.</b> <i>Joe Coston</i>	<b>25</b>  Happy Thanksgiving!	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <i>Ruby Jenney</i> <i>Elizabeth Charlotte</i> <i>Maneval</i>	<b>28</b> 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist II
<b>29 The First Sunday Of Advent</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00: Coffee Hour	<b>30</b>	<b>Kajo Keji: Nov. 1:</b> Leikor Archdeaconry, The Ven. Eliya Busi Andrewson <b>Nov. 8:</b> Liwolo Archdeaconry, The Ven. Abednego Duku Wodogo <b>Nov. 15:</b> Loggu Archdeaconry, The Ven. James Dima Bojoi <b>Nov. 22:</b> Romogi Archdeaconry. The Ven. Emmanuel Kenyi Pitia <b>Nov. 29:</b> Barjur Parish, The Rev. Openi Sakor		<b>Trinity: Nov 1:</b> Jake, Joanne, Nicole and Greg Armstrong <b>Nov 8:</b> Kathy, Kevin, Alexandra and Jonathan Ayres <b>Nov 15:</b> Ralph, Bonnie, Rose, Jeffery, Chris, and Justin Bailey <b>Nov 22:</b> Patrick and Barbara Barry <b>Nov 29:</b> Mike, Shelley and Barbara Barry		

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Nov. 1:** The clergy and people of all the parishes of our diocesan community who looked "for the resurrection of the dead" and preceded us into "the life of the world to come." **Nov. 8:** The clergy, people, mission and ministries of our Episcopal Church and the faithful servant leadership of our Presiding Bishop, Katherine Jefferts-Schori. **Nov. 15:** Episcopal Housing for the Elderly of Allentown, Reading and the Slate Belt. **Nov. 22:** Trinity Church, Pottsville, The Rev. James Rinehart, rector **Nov. 29:** Trinity Church, West Pittston, The Rev. John Major, rector

**A n g l i c a n s**  
**T h e**  
**Nov. 1:** The clergy and people of the Diocese of Ughelli in Nigeria **Nov. 8:** The clergy and people of the Diocese of Uyo in Nigeria **Nov. 15:** The clergy and people of the Diocese of Virginia **Nov. 22:** The clergy and people of the Diocese of Wau (Sudan) **Nov. 29:** The clergy and people of the Diocese of West Texas

## November Highlights

### Saturday November 7th:

Trinity will be celebrating their first 5:00 p.m. mass. This will be a simple said mass, hope to see you there to support this new ministry.

### Wednesday November 11th:

Our Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schoril will be celebrating at Evensong at St Stephen's Wilkes Barre at 6:00 Pm an open forum reception will follow at 7:15 PM. at St. Stephen's Wilkes-Barre. It has been 75 years since a Presiding Bishop has visited the Diocese, so this is a once in a lifetime experience! Car pooling options will be available. Please contact Mother Trula, or the office if you are interested in attending.

### Wednesday November 18th, 2009:

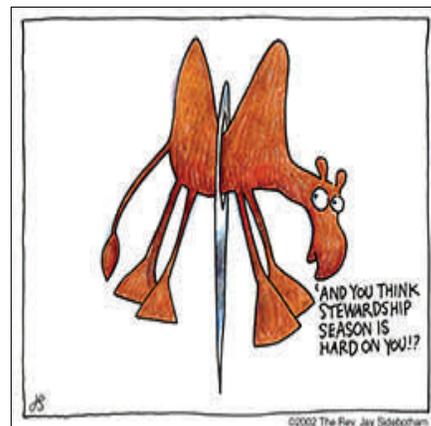
Mother Trula will be holding a DVD viewing and discussion evening at 7 PM. She will be presenting For the Bible Tells Me So.

*For the Bible Tells Me So* is a compassionate and insightful documentary about the contemporary face of an old conflict between Christian fundamentalists and gay and lesbian people. The film looks deep into the hearts of several families--a few of them quite famous--that have struggled with making sense of having a homosexual son or daughter in the fold. At the same time, *For the Bible Tells Me So* is a deconstruction of thin arguments that the Bible actually condemns homosexuality in a few passages and through the story of Sodom and Gomorrah's destruction...

### Wednesday November 25th.

There will be a Thanksgiving Eve service will be November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 O'clock in the evening. We have so many things to be thankful let us share together in the many blessings God has given us in the past year.

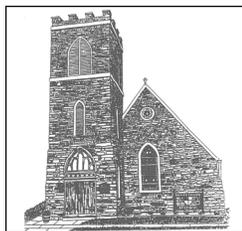
Pledge letters and cards will be in the mail this week. If you could please return them in the self addressed stamped envelopes it would be greatly appreciated.



*On the Altar at Eucharist in the bread and wine, God Announces "This is how much I love you." On the altar at Eucharist in the offering plate, I announce "This is how much I love you."*

*-The Most Rev. Douglas Hambridge*

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October at Trinity