

Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Last Pentecost—Advent - November, 2010

Greetings,

I had been estranged from someone in my family for many years. Some time ago, we started talking again. It's long and complicated, as these things tend to be, but, unfortunately, not uncommon in families. Forgiveness was not the issue. What seemed to have happened was that we got used to being "acquaintances" rather than family.

Recently, we've made a real effort to get to know one another again. So, how do you do that after so many years of avoiding discussing the "sensitive" issues that may actually allow for relationship to develop. I can tell you from my experience this is a process, one that requires total honesty, openness, and willingness to let go of the past and look to the future.

I know many others have been in this situation. Some have been "stuck" in a place where the easiest thing to do is nothing when it comes to relationships.

While we hope for reconciliation, we do nothing. How often does this happen in our relationship with Christ? What is it that causes church to become more an "acquaintance" of which we may once have been intimate? The intimacy becomes something that is "put aside" for a bit. We tell ourselves it's just until the kids are no longer playing sports or just this one rainy Sunday, but then as time goes by, it seems easier to just do nothing.

Often, when I leave Trinity after a service, I say, "I love being in that church and with the people who come to worship there." There is an ever present feeling of being connected. If we become detached from that connection, we can become detached from our relationship with God. The experience of "church" brings us together in a community creating a bond through our worship.

So, how do we reconcile estrangement from the church? Well, it seems we should start with making a connection.

There were many positive feelings in the relationship I spoke of earlier which I allowed myself to push aside so I could justify our estrangement. I was also afraid to be honest for fear of further rejection. So, I made a connection. I started the dialogue.

In our relationship with Christ, there is always dialogue, but if we lose the connection or avoid the dialogue, we will remain estranged. In our relationship with Christ, there is *never* fear of rejection. So start the dialogue, pray, go to church, talk with someone else who goes to church, call a pastor, and talk to a friend; **START THE DIALOGUE**. As the Nike commercial says, "Just do it." God will not reprimand. God loves unconditionally.

We are all more than an "acquaintance" to God; let us allow God to be more than an "acquaintance" to us. Let's un-stick ourselves from whatever excuses we've made or from whatever justification we've created to prevent us from moving into a real, personal and honest relationship with God.

The road to getting to know one another all over again does not have to be difficult if we are open minded, accept ourselves and one another for who we are, and move beyond the past. Having a whole, mature relationship with God can only make it easier for us to reconcile those human relationships we long to be a part of again.

I have great hopes for my reconciliation process. I have ever greater hopes for all of us as we work toward whole, healthy relationships.

Come and see how truly "attached" you can become to your church once more.

God's Peace,
Mother Trula

Convention 2010

On October 7 & 8, the Diocese of Bethlehem held its 2010 Diocesan Convention. Trula, Pat and I attended as delegates from Trinity.

As always, Bishop Paul opened the Convention with an address and, as always, it was interesting and thought-provoking. He began by describing "a year of connections," which includes improved relationships with Moravians, Lutherans and Methodists as well as an unprecedented appearance in the pulpit at St. Luke's in Scranton by Bishop Bambera, the new Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, plus a new opportunity to move closer to our Latino Episcopalians.

Most of his address, however, and much of the Convention, dealt with a new process for congregational development called "From Risks to Opportunities." This is a long-term approach to transforming the culture in our parishes in order to strengthen and develop them for generations to come. The process is based on prayer, which prepares the parish to better understand itself, develop strategic plans and use all of its available resources to fulfill its mission in the world and our baptismal covenants.

Following the Bishop's address on Friday and again on Saturday, delegates met in small groups to discuss important questions related to the Risks to Opportunities process. Pat and I were in a group from smaller parishes in the northern part of the Diocese (Sayre, Towanda, Montrose). We shared our thoughts on some very interesting issues. For example, we were asked, "How does our Parish maintain a life of prayer and how could we improve?" and, "What role has our parish played in our individual faith journeys?" Another challenging question was, "What single word most closely describes our parish?" (For the record, our answers were "friendly" and "family.") The Diocesan staff is planning to compile the notes from all the group discussions so we'll have a chance to take some advice and counsel from the various ways our parishes and worshipers think about themselves. We're also planning to challenge ourselves by implementing the Risks to Opportunities process; we'll talk much more on this soon.

The business of the Convention included a discussion on the budget (reduced about 9% from last year, by cutting staff, not programs) and resolutions on budget, salaries, and ecclesiastical discipline. Addi-

tional resolutions urged that parishes engage in life-long Christian Formation (education, development and growth in faith) and that each parish explore and implement a Health Ministry. Finally, the only resolution to which there was any opposition, urged that the US withdraw from Afghanistan by the end of 2011, as announced by President Obama. It was unclear if the folks who voted "no" wanted to get out sooner, stay longer or just couldn't bring themselves to vote for anything with President Obama's name attached.

Worship at the Convention was, as always, very satisfying. While not as elaborate as some years (so we'd have more time for our group discussions), our Evensong, morning Eucharist and noon prayer were wonderful opportunities to pray corporately with our Diocesan brothers and sisters in Christ.

In summary, the Convention was very businesslike in conducting its business, very inspiring in worship and very challenging for the future. I doubt if any of us at Trinity would argue that we need to move "From Risks to Opportunities!" And I think the most important outcome of the Convention is that we'll have a chance to do that using a great new process that will strengthen our faith and our future.

John Schoonover
Senior Warden



Building News

Work to stabilize the tower will be done immediately with further work to be done in the Spring. We will be withdrawing money from one of our Diocesan Investment

Trusts to cover the initial work. The Vestry will then be exploring the possibility of grants or other loans to fund the rebuilding of the tower and the replacement of the church doors. If you have ideas or are interested in the process, please talk to a member of the building committee: John Schoonover, Don Barton, John Strange, Dan Gerhart.

The parish hall kitchen floor will be replaced soon. The old floor is in bad condition and is made of asbestos, which will present some challenges. We are currently entertaining bids for the new floor.

The next meeting is November 14th after coffee hour. All are welcome.



Trinity Episcopal Church - November 2010

Last Pentecost -
First Advent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 All Saints Day AA 8:00 pm	2 All Souls Day	3 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm <i>Heather Martin Brandon & Derek Coston</i>	4 Clergy Day 9-3 St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre	5	6 Pentecost 24 5:00 Deacon's Mass  Fall Back DST ends <i>Norma Duddie</i>
7 Pentecost 24—All Saints 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour	8 AA 8:00 pm <i>Blake Draper</i>	9 <i>Matthew Hollywood</i>	10 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm <i>Jim & Mary Patterson</i>	11	12 Happening Kirby House, through Sunday	13 Pentecost 25 5:00 Holy Eucharist II 6:00 Chicken and Bis- cuit Dinner
14 Pentecost 24 P-28 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour Vestry Meets National Donor Sabbath	15 AA 8:00 pm <i>Carol Reed</i>	16	17 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm <i>Kent Stanley</i>	18	19	20 Last Pentecost 11-2 Worship Leader Training, Parish Hall 5:00 Holy Eucharist II <i>John & Carol Reed</i>
21 Last Pentecost—Christ the King—Pledge Sunday 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour	22 AA 8:00 pm	23 Clergy Bible Study 8, 4 p.m., Christ Church, Towanda	24 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00 p.m. AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm <i>Joe Coston</i>	25 Thanksgiving Day 	26	27 Advent I 5:00 Holy Eucharist II <i>Elizabeth Maneval Ruby Jenney</i>
28 The First Sunday Of Advent 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour 	29 AA 8:00 pm	30 St. Andrew, the Apostle	<i>Trinity: 11/7: Joe, Stacey, Roman, Derek, Brandon and Parker Coston. 11/14: Jeff, Kim, Eric and Abby Davenport. 11/21: Jerry and Jean Dolan. 11/28: William, Sarah, Leigha, Addy and Blake Draper.</i>		<i>Diocese of Kajo Keji: 11/7: Kinyiba: The Rev. Scopas Wani. 11/14: MES Depart- ment: Duesuk Alex and Moro James. 11/21: Woro: Deacon Simon Kwiyansuk Lupai. 11/28: Liwolo Secondary School: Headmaster, staff and students.</i>	
<i>Diocese of Bethlehem: 11/7: Church of the Good Shepherd, Scranton: The Ven. Howard Stringfellow, Supply. The Recovery Commission. 11/14: St. Luke's, Scranton: The Rev. Peter D. D'Angio, Rector. 11/21: St. Alban's, Sinking Springs: The Rev. Karl L. Kern, Rector; The Rev. Charles L. Beem, The Rev. Bruce Baker, Associate Priests. 11/28: Christ Church, Stroudsburg: The Rev. Gerald Gaeta, Interim, Cheryl Cloke, Senior Warden. The Stewardship Commission.</i>				<i>Anglicans Around the World: 11/7: Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba. 11/14: Katsina (Province of Kaduna, Nigeria) The Rt. Rev. Jonathan Sani Bamaiyi. 11/21: Bermuda (Extra Provincial to Canterbury), The Rt. Rev. Patrick White. 11/28: Kimberley & Kuruman (South Africa) The Rt. Rev. Oswald Peter Patrick Swartz.</i>		

November Highlights

November 6 — Deacon’s Mass at 5 p.m. Come and greet Deacon Hazel Hunt, who will be our president.

FALL BACK! Set your clock back an hour and enjoy the extra sleep!



November 7—All Saints Day Celebration. Renewal of Baptismal Covenant and all of our favorite “saint songs.”

November 13 — Chicken and Biscuit Dinner, 6 p.m. Parish Hall. Wonderful food and Fellowship .. Join us following the 5 o’clock service.

November 14 — Vestry meeting following coffee hour. All are welcome.

November 20— Worship Leader Training, 11 to 2, Parish Hall. (formerly known as Lay Readers) We welcome those of you who would like to become worship leaders or would like to become more familiar with the Book of

Common Prayer. Lunch provided.

November 21—Christ the King, Pledge Sunday. You’ll be receiving a letter next week about planning the coming year for our parish family asking you to prayerfully consider your gifts of time and talent and your financial support. You may place your pledge card in the alms basin or mail it to the church.

November 24— Thanksgiving Eve, Holy Eucharist, 7 p.m.

November 28— First Sunday of Advent. The new church year begins.

Coming in December:

Toy Giveaway is Saturday, December 4, from 9 to 1.

Greening of the Church, December 19.

Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 11 p.m.

@Thanks to those of you who said you’d like to receive your

newsletters by email. Please consider going electronic .. Your newsletter will arrive faster, be in color and will save trees and postage.

Sunday Service Time Change???

The Vestry is discussing the possibility of changing our Sunday service time. We’d like to know what you would prefer:

- 9 a.m. year round, no change
- 9 a.m. summer, 10 a.m. winter
- 9:30 a.m. year round
- 9 a.m. summer, 9:30 a.m. winter

If you have a preference, please let a member of the vestry know or speak with Mthr. Trula.

Prayer Chain

Please call the church office (888.5715) if you need to add someone to the prayer list or if you would like to be part of the group that offers prayer. Pat Gurney will be coordinating the group.

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November at Trinity