

Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Last Epiphany - Lent - March, 2011

Greetings,

When I came to Trinity in 1991, I was attracted not only to the people but to the building. The woodwork, the windows and the organ made me want to stay. And indeed, on several occasions, I have sat in the pews just to "feel" the church, to feel the presence of God. Of course, we can feel the presence of God anywhere but while I was trying to discern what form of ministry God was leading me toward, being present in the church brought me to the core of understanding my call.

This story evokes images of Jesus as he began those forty days with handing himself over to the Spirit. Lent is about bringing ourselves to give up on control and letting the Spirit work through us.

We tend to impose control on ourselves instead of surrendering ourselves to the Spirit. These deliberate efforts to impose discipline on certain aspects of our lives often lead us even further away from the freedom Jesus achieved surrendering to the Spirit. Allowing the Spirit into our hearts and minds helps us strip away some of the barriers we place between us and God. It brings us closer to reality, to our true selves.

As we travel the journey through Lent, I hope we don't impose upon ourselves something that makes us feel angry or "cheated" in some way. I hope we can all find a discipline this season that will allow us to smile or better yet allow us and someone else to smile simultaneously!

Devoting more time to prayer or meditation is certainly a way to allow the Holy Spirit to work through us and others. Donating to a good cause with our time and/or our money should accomplish that happiness for ourselves and those around us.

Or what about simply being kind to someone who doesn't experience much kindness in their lives? Or reading meditations throughout the season, or study

scripture, or learn a new skill all that can be shared with others.

There is so much we can do throughout Lent that doesn't involve giving up brownies. Jesus loves us. What Jesus wants from us this season is to come a point where we can feel "truth" of the Spirit as a place that frees us to be the people God meant for us to be. Truth will only happen when we take away all our present barriers so that what is "real" opens up to us.

What is real? Your authentic self is real. Who are we at the core of our being? What is there after we strip away all of our fears and anxieties? The real person who feels the truth within.

There is nothing better one can do this Lent than to find a discipline that allows the authentic self to surface. Scrape away all of the "stuff" that surrounds the real you. The stuff we somehow think is protecting us from pain and suffering. In actuality, we may just be hiding from a call that scares us or that we somehow feel unworthy to receive. Jesus will not give up on us. Believe me, the Spirit attempts to enter our lives all of the time.

So this Lent, peel away, get down to the core of who you are, then "go and do" something that makes you, Jesus and those "others" of God's people smile!

God's Peace, Mother Trula

These past few months have brought many challenges to Trinity and I want to take some room in this column to thank the vestry and the building committee for all of the long hours put into research, contacts with architects and contractors, and decision making.

John Schoonover, as Senior Warden and Dan Gerhart, our newly appointed Junior Warden, are

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working with the bank to secure a line of credit to repair the tower and accomplish other much needed repairs to the building. John has been in contact with the Diocese to communicate our plans.

You'll be seeing a lot of work going on around the building. Not only will the work serve to preserve the building but there will definitely be an aesthetic bonus to the improvements.

With all the needs of the building comes expense. The cost of the necessary repairs will strain our budget this year and in years to follow.

Many times I have heard people say, "My parents were married in that church," or "I have so many wonderful memories about that church." The vestry and I are appealing to all who have those fond memories to consider prayerfully if you can increase your pledge, make a one time pledge, or make a pledge that is spread out over the next several years. Please consider how you can help keep our church a vital part of the community

Here are some of my own memories of Trinity;

- My daughter's wedding
- My grandchildren's baptism
- Many Epiphany Pageants with the church school
- Music, lots of music
- My very good friend preaching
- Looking out at the congregation during a sermon on Maundy Thursday as a bat was swooping by everyone's heads
- Saying goodbye to many departed friends and family
- Spilling wine on a young man's white tuxedo
- Many, many weddings
- The Epiphany Pageant that almost wasn't because there was no heat in the church.
- Times of quiet reflection and prayer
- So, so many more!

Share your memories, joys and experiences. Consider what it would be like not to have had those experiences.

Mother Trula

Book Binding Demonstration and Repair Event

The Valley Library Association is hosting a book binding repair demonstration on **Saturday, March 12** from 1 to 3 at the Sayre Historical Society Building. Jim Leone is one of the few remaining book binders in the world and presents a fascinating program. So, plan to attend and take books that need repair or recovering, such as children's books, Bibles, Cookbooks, map books, books that are dear to you.

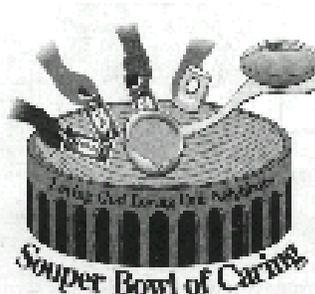
Diocesan Training for Ministry will be April 2 at St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre.

You may register through the 23rd of March online at www.diobeth.org. It's a great opportunity to meet people, learn and worship together. There are brochures in the back of the church. Some of the workshops to be offered include:

- Ministry of the Lay Eucharistic Visitor
- Wardens/Vestry 101
- Bringing Financial Sanity to the Family
- Health Ministries
- Incorporating new members into the Episcopal Church
- Evangelism as Prayer and Faith Sharing
- Come Let us Worship, for laity and clergy

... and much more. The day begins at 9:15 with prayer and welcome, Session I is from 9:45 to 11:15, Holy Eucharist is at 11:30, followed by lunch at 12:30; Session II is from 1:15 to 2:45. There will be a final time of prayer and commissioning and the day winds up at 3:15.

If you've never been to this event, please consider it. You'll meet great people and worship at St. Stephen's is a wonderful experience.



While we didn't hold services on Souper Bowl weekend, due to the ice storm, we more than made up for it the following two weeks. Your donations totaled \$70, and will be given to our local food pantry.

Thank you all!



Trinity Episcopal Church - March 2011

Last Epiphany Lent



Spring forward for March 13

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer 3/6: Epiphany, Clarks Summit: The Rev. Craig Sweeney, Rector; Stewardship and the Stewardship Commission. **3/13:** Prince of Peace, Dallas & Trinity, West Pittston: The Rev. John Major, Rector. **3/20:** St. Gabriel's, Douglassville: The Rev. Joanna Graham, Interim; The Rev. Donna Jean Kiessling, Associate; The Rev. Sally Bosler, Deacon. **3/27:** St. James', Drifton & St. Peter's, Hazleton: The Rev. Jeffrey L. Funk, Rector, Deacon Marion Meiss.

Anglicans Around the World 3/6: Yangon and Myanmar: Archbishop Stephen Than Myint Oo, Bishop Joseph Than Pe, Suffragan. **3/13:** Minna, Nigeria: Bishop Daniel Abu Yisa. **3/20:** Mombasa, Kenya: Bishops Julius Robert Katio Kalu and Lawrence Dena. **3/27:** Mount Kenya, Kenya: Bishop Isaac Nganga Bishop Allen Macharia Waithaka, Suffragan (Central); ; Bishop Timothy Ranje (South); Bishop Joseph M. Kagunda (West).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Trinity Cycle of Prayer 3/6</i> Charles Kohnken, Maureen Blaney 3/13 Marcel and Donna Lamb, Patricia and Heather Martin; 3/20 Tom, Kathe, Michael, Alex, Elizabeth and Patrick Maneval. 3/27 Jon, Wendy, Kate, Kelly and Kim Murray.		1	2 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	3	4	5 Last Epiphany 5:00 Deacon's Mass
6 Last Epiphany 9:00 - Holy Eucharist I 10:00 - Coffee Hour <i>Laura Smith</i> <i>Evelyn Johnson</i>	7 AA 8:00 pm <i>Elizabeth Pashley</i>	8 Shrove Tuesday 6 p.m. Pancake Supper <i>Bonnie Bailey</i>	9 Ash Wednesday 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	10 <i>Jan Beck</i> <i>Jack Forbes</i> <i>Gage Streeter</i>	11 <i>Greg Lake</i>	12 Lent 1 5:00 Holy Eucharist Set your clocks forward one hour <i>Jo Ann Armstrong</i>
13 Lent 1 9:00 - Holy Eucharist I 10:00 - Coffee Hour <i>Keith Hollywood</i> <i>Barbara Caum</i>	14 AA 8:00 pm	15	16 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	17	18 <i>Mike Barry</i> <i>Judy Phillips</i> <i>Leigha Draper</i>	19 St. Joseph Lent 2 5:00 Holy Eucharist <i>Mary Tolbert</i>
20 Lent 2 9:00 - Holy Eucharist I 10:00 - Coffee Hour ---Vestry Meets--- <i>Peter Cama</i>	21 AA 8:00 pm <i>Rick Bubniak</i>	22 Archdeacon's Visit, 6 p.m.	23 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	24 <i>William Wood</i> <i>Maureen Blaney</i>	25 The Annunciation <i>Jeff Johnson</i>	26 Lent 3 5:00 Holy Eucharist
27 Lent 3 9:00 - Holy Eucharist I 10:00 - Coffee Hour <i>Robert Bean</i> <i>Mary Ann Burke</i>	28 AA 8:00 pm <i>Mary Beth Paul</i>	29 <i>Joe and Laura Cama</i>	30 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Bishop Paul Visits April 3 →	31 <i>Kajo Keji: 3/6:</i> Kigwo: Deacon Abraham Banga Moji; Bishop Anthony Poggo, 3/13: St. John's, Lukura: The Rev. David Duku, Deacon Silivian Kiden. Bishop's Staff. 3/20: St. Peter's, Limi: The Rev. Moses Logiron. Romoggi Secondary School: The Rev. Eluzai Loboka and Committee. 3/27: St. Philip's, Wudu Town: The Rev. Sadaraka Muni, Deacon Kwoji Sam. Mother's Union: Jane Poggo, The Rev. Mary Basa, The Rev. Silivian Kiden.		

March Highlights:

- **March 5 and 6 — Last Epiphany: Alleluia Sunday.** Last alleluias til Easter. **Deacon Hazel** will be with us on Saturday, March 5 for a Deacon’s Mass at 5 p.m. Come welcome her.
- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper,** March 8th at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Bring your appetite!
- **Ash Wednesday is March 9th.** Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes, 7 p.m.
- **Vestry meets March 20th** following coffee hour. Remember that everyone is welcome.
- **Archdeacon Howard Stringfellow** will meet with the Vestry on March 22 at 6 p.m.

Prayer Chain: The prayer chain is now in place; if you would like to ask for immediate prayers for yourself or someone else, call the church office or Patricia Gurney (607-699-3640). You may also add names to the prayer list located on the back table in the church.



Congratulations to Justin Bailey for earning his God and Country Boy Scout Badge. It was presented to him on February 27th in church. There is a display of pictures he created in the back of the church.



Our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is March 8th ... Pancakes, eggs, sausages and much more. Don't miss it! We start at 6 p.m. If you'd like

to help, talk to Marie Bubniak.

Clothing Giveaway ... coming in May. We are gathering new and like new clothing for all ages. Please start bringing items in to the parish hall now through the end of April. Marie Bubniak is organizing the event and says all sorts of things are needed, *except sweatshirts*. Talk to her if you have questions.

Bishop Paul will visit us on Sunday, April 3rd, at our 9 a.m. service. Please plan to come and make him welcome. He is a wonderful preacher and will bring news and greetings from our diocesan family. If you need a ride, call the office.

Ninety-one cards for her 91st Birthday! Help make a wonderful surprise for **Mary Tolbert** on **March 19th.** Please mail a card to:
Mary Tolbert
1223 Elmira St.
Sayre, PA 18840

Trinity Episcopal Church
 703 S. Main Street
 Office: 701 S. Main
 Athens, PA 18810



March at Trinity



Lent begins March 9. Our Ash Wednesday service is at 7 p.m.