

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. Benjamin Lee Lentz, Supply Priest
The Rev. Hazel B. Hunt, Supply Deacon

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Christmas - Epiphany, January, 2013

From the Senior Warden

Hopefully this first Newsletter for 2013 finds all members of the Trinity family well. It is my hope that everyone enjoyed a blessed Christmas with family. For my part, I will need to be getting serious about the diet once again.

As we look forward to 2013, we find ourselves as a Vestry once again preparing for the Annual Meeting in January including the preparation and presentation of a budget for the year. I would like to report that although the final numbers are not yet tabulated for December, our budget for 2012 (while extremely tight) proved to be achievable. I believe the final analysis will indicate that we met or exceeded our budgeted income and held the line on expenses.

This was achieved, in part, by conversion of both Church and Rectory boilers from oil to gas. We essentially paid for the cost of the conversion from savings due to not burning oil without (at least so far) incurring any additional indebtedness. Unfortunately, this has left us with a somewhat depleted cash balance going into the first quarter of 2013 when gas bills will come due.

The last remaining piece of the bell tower project completed primarily in 2011 is the installation of a new outside lighting fixture over the new doors. The fixture has been purchased and will hopefully be installed in the not too distant future.

The bell tower project, however, did leave us with a line of credit loan (secured by the Maurice Trust) in the amount of approximately \$132,000. To date, none of the principal borrowed has been repaid. An appeal for fund commitments at the time of the project brought in three year pledges which fall short of even making the interest payments. The balance of these payments has been funded from

general revenue. It was my hope that in 2013, with the reduced heating costs, we could begin making at least token principal payments.

I'm sure by now you know where this column is heading...

A preliminary budget for 2013 has been developed and was reviewed at the December Vestry Meeting. Unfortunately, I must report that in spite of some increase in individual pledges, the total is down as some pledges have not been renewed. Our income projections for 2013 are about \$5,000 short of meeting bare minimum expenses if operation is to be continued as we have become accustomed. At the present time there is nothing in the budget to begin repayment of loan principal as discussed above or to cover various ongoing maintenance projects which have been accumulating on a list.

My appeal is straightforward. If you have inadvertently failed to make your continuing pledge, please turn it in at your earliest convenience. If you can see your way clear to increasing your pledge, please consider doing so. If you can find additional funds to contribute to debt service on the line of credit loan, please give whatever you can afford, earmarked accordingly, in addition to your pledge. Like the "loaves and fishes" small contributions can have significant impact.

Thank you for your consideration of this request in the hope that we can keep Trinity healthy and viable doing God's Work in Athens for years to come.

Respectfully,

Daniel Z. Gerhart
Senior Warden

How many annual meetings?

My first annual meeting at Trinity was in 1991 (Ned and I had arrived in October, 1990). According to the records, it was the 149th annual meeting of the members of Trinity. When you do the math, that means the first annual meeting was in 1843.

The fire-safe file cabinet in the Sacristy has a wealth of historical materials, including the first parish registry, which contains a history of the church, written by the rector in 1885 or so. For our Sesquicentennial Celebration, the late Louise Catlin began with that as the basis for the history she wrote about the church.

It's an interesting read. After the church organized, it met in rooms at the Athens Academy, then in a small wooden church on Chemung Street, which burned, then back at the Academy until 1860 when the present church was built at a cost of \$2600. The original rectory was the building at 727 S. Main; there was later a trade for the building where the current rectory stands. Funds from that paid for the lowering of the church floor, which you can see if you look closely at the outside stonework. In 1910 the current rectory was built at a cost of \$6,000 and was designed by the architectural firm of Pierce and Bickford, Elmira.

The church has gone through cycles throughout its 171 year history ... in the 1870's there were 48 communicants and 69 members of the Sunday School, by 1900 there were 56 families, 98 communicants and 48 in the Church School. Yet, ten years later, and through 1929, there was very little activity and no church school. You can see the same pattern over the intervening years, waxing and waning with the changing times, rectors and the neighborhoods of the Valley.

In the 1930's the Charlotte Tidd Memorial Chapel was installed in the rectory; that is the office in which I am writing this. There were services held here as well as weddings. The tiny red folding chairs that are in the sacristy were purchased for the seating in the chapel, along with the thin velvet kneelers now in the sanctuary, which have faded from a rich red to a rust brown.

During the war years there was not much activity at Trinity, but it surged again in the 1950's when there was an active Sunday School with five classes, a youth group and a large youth and adult choir.

When the oil crisis hit in the late 1970's, weekday Holy Eucharists, vestry meetings and study groups were held in the rectory to save energy; Evening Prayer, hymn sings and women's meetings were held in members' homes.

The history is filled with repairs, projects, improvements, group activities and community outreach; the same ministries we carry on today.

The point is, the Church, God's Episcopal people in Athens, has continued. Since the first meetings in 1842, through the years in the building that burned on Chemung Street, the years back at Athens Academy, many years in the current church building and some years when the building was used very little, the Church remains.

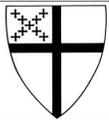
We who are currently the Church have a rich legacy from those who came before us, a heritage we continue to do our best to uphold and keep for future generations. Our mission continues; we base that mission on our Baptismal Vow: *to seek and serve Christ in all people.*

You are invited to gather for the 171st Annual Meeting of the Members of Trinity Church on Sunday, January 20th, following worship. There will be a potluck brunch, wonderful fellowship, and there will be copies of the 1992 History available. Our bylaws define a member, one eligible to vote, as anyone who attends Trinity on a regular basis.

We will look at the past year and plan for 2013 as well as the years ahead. You, who are the Church, will carry forward the work begun in 1842.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do Prayer of Thanksgiving, BCP 366

Barbara Cameron Caum
Parish Administrator



Trinity Episcopal Church - January 2013

Christmas
Epiphany

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Trinity Cycle of Prayer:</i> 1/6 Patricia and Heather Martin. 1/13 Jon, Wendy, Kim and Kate Murray; Kelly Murray and McKenzie Elliott 1/20 Hildegard Mohr, Peg Murray, Elizabeth Pashley; 1/27 James and Mary Patterson, Andy Patterson.</p>		1 Holy Name	2	3	4	5
<p>6 The Epiphany 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour</p> 	7 AA 8:00 pm	8	9 AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm	5	6 <i>Marie Bubniak Bryan Bean</i>	7
<p>13 Epiphany I - Baptism of Christ 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour Vestry Meets—Annual Reports due <i>Sharon & Harold Cole</i></p>	14 AA 8:00 pm	15	16 AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm <i>Janet Gurney</i>	17	18 St. Peter	19
<p>20 Epiphany II 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour 171st Annual Meeting of the Members of Trinity</p>	21 AA 8:00 pm <i>Andrea Lentz</i>	22	23 AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm	24 <i>Paul Kelley</i>	25 St. Paul <i>Catherine Page Gurney</i>	26
<p>27 Epiphany III 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour</p>	28 AA 8:00 pm <i>David Bivens</i>	29	30 AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm <i>Joe Cama</i>	31	 <p>Looking Ahead: Ash Wednesday is February 13th.</p>	

Anglicans Around the World: 1/6 Kwoi - (Abuja, Nigeria) The Rt. Rev. Paul Zamani. 1/13 Lake Malawi - (Central Africa) The Rt. Rev. Francis Kaulanda. 1/20 Liberia - (West Africa) The Rt. Rev. Dr Jonathan Bau-Bau Bonaparte Hart. 1/27 Lokoja - (Lokoja, Nigeria) The Most Rev. Emmanuel Sokowamju Egbunu .

Kajo Keji: 1/6: St. Phillips Morsak Dibe: The Rev. Kenyi Alix Paul, The Rev. Joyce Döru Luka. Participatory Awakening Process. 1/13: Kigwo: The Rev. Abraham Banga Moji. Montongo: The Rev. Mary Kajogo. Development Office. 1/20: Rodo and Rural Dean Kansuk Deanery: The Rev. Aggrey Ludöru. Ku'dupi Parish: The Rev. Mary Kanan. Bishop's Leadership School: The Rev. Canon John Lomundu and committee. 1/27: St. John Kendiri: The Rev. Augustino Loboka. Wudu Town: The Rev. Michael Aboi. MES Department.

Diocese of Bethlehem: 1/6: St. Andrew's, Alden: The Rev. John Leo, Supply. 1/13: Church of the Mediator, Allentown: The Rev. Canon Maria W.E. Tjeltveit, Rector. 1/20: Grace, Allentown: The Rev. Elizabeth Hoffman Reed, PIC, Deacon Rodney Conn. 1/27: St. Andrew's, Allentown/Bethlehem: The Rev. T. Scott Allen, Rector, The Rev. Jane Williams, Assisting.

January Highlights

January 6

The Epiphany

“De-greening of the Church”

January 13

Vestry meets, Annual Meeting reports are due

January 20

The 171st Annual Meeting of the Members of Trinity, potluck, following worship

All about Pledges

2012 Pledge Statements: Your end of the year statement for your regular pledge will be mailed some time this month. Keep in mind that it is NOT a bill but provided to you for your own record keeping and tax purposes if needed.

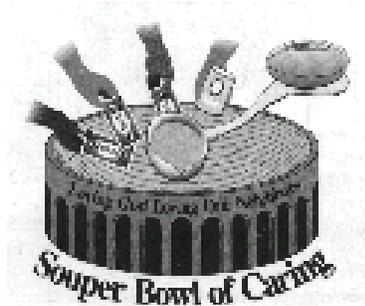
2013 Pledges: It's not too late to make a pledge for the coming year. There are pledge cards on the back table you can fill out; or, you can mail a signed simple statement to:

Pledge Treasurer
Trinity Episcopal Church
701 S. Main St.
Athens, PA 18810

2013 Pledge Envelopes: are in the back of the church for those of you who sent in signed pledge cards. If you need yours mailed to you, please call the church office.

If you do not wish to make a pledge, but would like weekly envelopes, talk to Barbara or call the church office.

Souper Bowl of Caring



What used to be a January event has migrated to February as the Super Bowl date has changed. This national program benefits local charities. Our donations go to the Valley Food Pantry.

Just a dollar for each member of your household goes a long way.
February 3rd.

Hospital Visits: Because of the privacy regulations now in effect, the church has no way of knowing if someone is in the hospital. Please, make arrangements now with a friend or family member to call the church if you are admitted. Fr. Ben or Deacon Hazel will visit with you, pray with you and bring you communion, but only if you let us know.

Prayer List, Birthday Anniversary Calendar: We keep a copy of the prayer list on the back table for you to add or subtract names each week. Please take a look and make sure it's up to date. Also, look over the **birthday/anniversary** calendar and make sure you and your family are included.

Make Trinity a friend on **Facebook, Trinity Episcopal Church, Athens.** You'll find pictures and news. Check it often.

Every Sunday is Food Pantry Sunday. Bring non-perishable foods in unbreakable containers. Please do not donate items that are past their "use by" date. The food pantry cannot accept those items. All donations are used locally.

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January at Trinity

