

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
The Rev. Trula Hollywood, Clergy in Residence

Office: Voice and Fax: 570-888-5715
Parish Administrator, Barbara Cameron Caum: 570-888-8981
information@trinityathens.org
Web Site: www.trinityathens.org
Facebook.com/Trinity.Episcopal.Church.Athens

Last Pentecost - Advent - November, 2014

A Note from the Vestry

Dan Gerhart, Senior Warden

The Vestry has engaged in a series of discussions over the past three months as to exactly what is our mission here at Trinity. Yes, there is a mission statement published in our bulletin each week, but what is it we are really doing? It seems like our mission should be about more than survival. It is easy to become bogged down in daily operation and maintenance issues. It is even easier to sit back and take a position that with an average Sunday attendance of 12 - 15 we really don't have the resources to do anything beyond keeping the doors open. Clearly, those who wrote the mission statement we publish every Sunday expected more.

The Vestry has kicked around a number of ideas and would like to solicit your input. It started with a request from Redeemer regarding whether we would be willing to host a community dinner on occasion. After the usual reaction of, "we don't have the resources," the discussion turned to "why not?" That was followed by "what can we do?" The Vestry has discussed options such as offering spiritual opportunities other than on Sunday morning - perhaps a Bible study or monthly recovery worship to reach out to the four recovery groups presently meeting in our parish hall. Effort could be made to rejuvenate the Friendly Visitor Program and Prayer Ministry.

There is a feeling among the Vestry that we need to be visible out there in the community. Perhaps there are opportunities to work with or in the schools. It has been suggested that perhaps we could help out at the Sayre Senior Center or with the Salvation Army food kitchen. In gen-

eral, the Vestry feels we need to do something in and for the community. Please get back to us with your thoughts on what that should be and your willingness to participate.

"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Diocese of Bethlehem Convention Report

The Rev. Trula Hollywood

Greetings,

The Vestry has asked that Karen Nichols, as your delegate to convention, and I, as Trinity's Clergy-in-Residence, give you all an overview of all that went on at this year's Convention in Bethlehem.

I have been attending conventions for this diocese as well as the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania for about 25 years and this convention was definitely the very best. There was a phenomenal energy and sharing of faith amongst the group.

Bishops Rowe's address to convention and his sermon at the Eucharist were the sparks that moved that energy throughout the crowd. His fresh ideas and energy had us all feeling as if we could accomplish anything. And, of course, we all know "With God, all things are possible"! The Bishop's message informed us that a great deal of change is coming in the next year. He described Episcopalian parishes overall as seeing themselves as franchises, owning, managing

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

and caring for our own little piece of the whole.

Bishop Rowe described the church as being in a place where we must reach out beyond our little franchises. He was very clear stating “those people” who say the church is dying are wrong! The church will revitalize and will prevail. He has wonderful ideas and will be visiting parishes across the Diocese.

One of the first changes will need to be a reduction in staff at the Diocese. This has already occurred. A letter regarding this reduction can be found on the website below and there are printed copies in the back of the church.

The address and sermon can be found in video at www.diobeth.org.

Walking through the crowds, the words “breath of fresh air” were heard on multiple occasions.

I was honored to have been voted in as a member of the Commission on Ministry which helps discern the role of those who feel called to the ministry.

The rest of the convention included the evening dinner, Morning Prayer and breakout groups doing exercises to develop ideas involving the future of the church.

In closing, both Karen and I were pleased and honored to represent Trinity at convention.

A Nose for News and Reflection

Tucker Gerhart

Publishing a monthly newsletter is demanding, and Barbara, our PA, asked me to do a guest column. In response, I am putting paws to the task. Like most West Highlands, I lead with my nose. Perhaps I have a nose for news and reflection...

A huge thank you goes to all who visited me on September 7th here in Rome Township. The church picnic was a success, I thought. Next time, we should spend some quality time down at the pond.

I appreciate Saint Francis of Assisi’s abundant love for God’s creatures. The celebration which brings pets and their people together for the annual blessing is always moving. I certainly approve of seeing new animals at Trinity and knowing all are welcome – two legged, four legged or many legged being of no matter.

As Winter approaches, I look forward to snowy and cold weather. I hate rain and love snow. Don’t you?



Although I avoid the confines of clothing, I know wearing it is very popular. During Advent, I get a chance to see hats, caps, mittens, gloves and scarves adorn the Christmas tree located behind the lectern. Always, The Valley community needs and is glad to receive the outerwear that is given as part of Trinity’s outreach.

Coming to church on a regular basis appeals to me, but for now I am OK with just hearing what Dan and Marny think should be on the Vestry’s agenda each month, seeing them check The Lectionary before serving as lector or worship leader, and wondering which of them is steadier on a high ladder when painting sills or louvers.

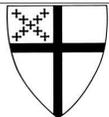
I try to keep a low profile and frequently remain a non-barker. Still, I want you to know of my enthusiasm for Trinity Church.

May God continue to watch over us all.

With best regards –



Tucker



Trinity Episcopal Church - November 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Trinity:</i> 11/2 Roger and Mary Ann Smith. 11/9 John and Barbara Strange. 11/16 Kathy, Jonathan and Alexandra Ayres. 11/23 Ralph, Bonnie, Rose, Jeffrey, Chris and Justin Bailey. 11/30 Patrick and Barbara Barry.</p>		<p><i>Diocese of Bethlehem:</i> 11/2 Good Shepherd, Scranton, The Rev. John Davis, Deacon. Provincial Synod. 11/9 St. Luke's, Scranton. Deacons. 11/16 St. Alban's, Sinking Spring, The Rev. Karl L. Kern, Rector; The Rev. Charles L. Beem, The Rev. Canon Walter Krieger, Associates. 11/23 Christ Church, Stroudsburg, The Rev. Douglas Moyer, Rector. Standing Committee. 11/30 St. Peter's, Tunkhannock: The Rev. Lou Divis, Rector. Incorporated Trustees.</p>			<p>1 All Saints' Day</p> <p> Fall Back DST ends</p>	
<p>2 Pentecost 21 – All Saints' 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour</p> <p></p>	<p>3 All Souls' Day AA 8:00 pm</p> <p><i>Heather Martin Lake Brandon & Derek Coston</i></p>	<p>4 Election Day</p>	<p>5 AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm</p>	<p>6 AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p>7 Happening Kirby House, through Sunday</p>	<p>8</p> <p><i>Blake Draper Emente Forbes</i></p>
<p>9 Pentecost 22 P-27 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour</p> <p><i>Matthew Hollywood</i></p>	<p>10 AA 8:00 pm</p> <p><i>Jim & Mary Patterson</i></p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm</p>	<p>13 AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 Pentecost 23 P-28 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour --Vestry Meets-- National Donor Sabbath</p>	<p>17 AA 8:00 pm</p> <p><i>Kent Stanley</i></p>	<p>18 Clergy Bible Study 8, 3 p.m., Christ Church, Towanda</p>	<p>19 AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm</p>	<p>20 AA 8:00 pm Clergy Day, St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 Last Pentecost - Christ the King 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>24 AA 8:00 pm</p> <p><i>Joe Coston</i></p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm</p> <p><i>Elizabeth Maneval</i></p>	<p>27 Thanksgiving Day AA 8:00 pm</p> <p></p>	<p>28</p> <p><i>Alex Mentzel</i></p>	<p>29</p> <p></p>
<p>30 Advent I 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour</p> <p></p>	<p><i>Anglicans Around the World:</i> 11/2 Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba, The Rt. Rev. Griselda Delgado Del Carpio, The Rt. Rev. Ulises Prendes, Suffragan. 11/9 Bermuda, The Rt. Rev. Nicholas Dill. 11/16 The Lusitanian Church (Portugal), The Rt. Rev. José Jorge De Pina Cabral. 11/23 The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain, The Rt. Rev. Carlos López-Lozano. 11/30 Falkland Islands, The Rt. Rev. Stephen Venner.</p>		<p><i>Diocese of Kajo Keji:</i> 11/2 Böri Archdeaconry, Böri Parish and Rural Dean Böri: The Ven. Elly Mawa Lojuru, Archdeacon; The Rev. Jeneti A' diko. 11/9 Wudu Town Parish: The Rev. Jonathan Soro Buli, Diocesan Secretary; The Rev. Michael Aboi. 11/16 Lu'bule Parish: The Rev. Joseph Lomuja. 11/23 Lori Parish: The Rev. Luka Lonjok Gedion. 11/30 Motongo Parish: The Rev. Mary Kajogo.</p>		<p>Fill the Mitten Tree! November 30 through December 23</p>	

November Highlights



November 1 - Fall Back - Daylight Saving Time ends. It's an extra hour of sleep!

November 2 - All Saints' Day Observance. All our favorite hymns and renewal of our baptismal vows. 9 a.m.

November 16 - Vestry meets.



National Donor Sabbath: Awareness of the value of organ donation to consider becoming an organ donor; or, as the organization says, "don't take your organs to heaven ... heaven knows we need them here."

organization says, "don't take your organs to heaven ... heaven knows we need them here."



November 30 - Advent begins. Our beautiful Advent wreath, given in memory of Fr. Ned, will once again grace

the sanctuary. This is also the beginning of the church year. We move from Year A in the lectionary cycle to year B. A reminder: you can find all the readings on line in several places, www.textweek.com is an excellent resource.



The Mitten Tree will also return on November 30th. Donations will be used locally. Carol Reed was a big supporter of this Outreach project. Let's load the tree down this year during the four Sundays of Advent, 11/30 to 12/21, remembering Carol with love.

Helping to keep families warm:

You will find special donation envelopes for The Bridge of Pennsylvania Valley Churches in church. While we can't directly take part in their annual Sleep Out, we can help by donating. The seasonal forecast is calling for a lot of snow; please help as you are able.

Outreach Discretionary Fund/

Christmas Fund: The vestry created this fund for those in true need. Any additional funds will go toward our adopted Christmas family: presents and a special dinner. In the past it has cost about \$300. If you wish to make a contribution, you may write a check and indicate its purpose on the *for* line. There are now also envelopes in each

pew for cash donations.

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, Mtr. Trula 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.

Stewardship Sunday, December 14th. Please begin now to prayerfully consider your monetary pledge to Trinity for 2015. The vestry will be working on next year's budget in December. Your next newsletter will contain a pledge card with your promise to be a faithful steward of God's bounty.

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



November at Trinity