

Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Last Pentecost - Advent - November - 2003

Giving Thanks

When last month's newsletter was mailed out to you, Fr. Ned was preparing for a risky surgery and a long recovery. The Caum family and the Trinity family were preparing to help him through a difficult time with prayer and schedule changes. Dr. Reitknecht, the surgeon, asked for one more test, one that was not pleasant, but that she felt would give her the best information she could have before actually operating. That test was a TEE (trans-esophageal echocardiogram). Fr. Ned did comment that if one could avoid that particular test, he would advise it, but the test showed that surgery was not necessary after all. A mitral valve has two petals; one was not working correctly, but the other was covering the valve completely; there was no leakage. So, she and Dr. Sporn, Ned's cardiologist, cancelled the surgery.

It was an early Thanksgiving for us all. We are all so very happy that this surgery isn't necessary, that his condition can be treated medically and that the pain and sheer slowness of a long recovery are no longer looming on the horizon.

When October 22, which had been the surgery date, came and went, it was a joyful, thankful time for us.

Not all Thanksgivings are this dramatic, but each one is a gift from God and it is one of our great joys to be able to give thanks.

Many, many thanks for all of your prayers, and we know that you join us in giving thanks. Each day, find something to be thankful for. A sunset, a smile, a memory, the chance to talk to a friend, to make a new friend. In all things, give thanks. It will bring you great joy.

A Presentation by Bishop Paul

Our Bishop has been invited and has scheduled ten evenings around the diocese to discuss how we receive the Bible in church and how we think biblically and theologically about questions of human sexuality. The presentation in our area will be at the Church of the Redeemer on Thursday evening, November 13, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Bishop Paul says the presentations are not about changing anyone's mind on difficult issues, rather he says, "It would not be my intention to convince anyone of a point of view, much less have a debate, as there are many ways of using the scriptures present in Christianity, but I would want to demonstrate how one Christian who tries to follow Jesus in a thoughtful way receives and uses the Bible in the present day." He adds, "I hope that youth would be invited to such meetings, as they are the ones who must still make many decisions in life."

If anyone needs transportation, please call the church office (888-5715).

Thanksgiving Worship at Redeemer

The Valley Episcopal Churches, the congregations of Trinity, Redeemer and Grace, will worship together on Wednesday, November 26 at 7 p.m. at the Church of the Redeemer. If you're interested in joining the choir, talk to Barbara.

If you need transportation, please call the parish office (888-5715)

Diocesan Hymn Sing - Therefore, we join our voices

This wonderful event features hymns, ancient and modern, stories and more, with Mark Laubach, organist, and the Rev. Canon Ed Erb, commentator. It will be held at St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, on Sunday afternoon, November 16th, beginning at 3 p.m. Want to attend? Talk to Fr. Ned about car pooling.

Godly Play

You may have noticed that the Parish Hall has been changed a bit. Our Christian Education Director, Laura Cama, has moved the children's worship and learning space to the front of the parish hall. There, they have more room and better light to learn, explore and experience the stories that make up our faith. Godly Play begins each Sunday at 9:45. Child care is also provided during the 10 a.m. service. If you'd like to know more about this Montessori based program, talk to Laura.

Buildings and Grounds

A meeting will be held soon to discuss the plans and priorities for improvements to the church building. The architects have formulated a series of tasks to correct the stress on the church walls, some repointing of the stone and other projects planned to keep the church in good physical condition. If you'd like to know more, talk to a vestry member or to Fr. Ned.

Outreach

Helping those in need is an ongoing ministry; we give food for the hungry, visit the lonely and help in all ways we can. As the Christmas season approaches, we are made even more aware of the needs in our own neighborhoods. Remember that the first Sunday of each month is a day to bring items for the Food Pantry. It is also the day that any loose offering (not designated as pledge) goes to the rector's discretionary fund. Over the years, this fund has helped those in prison, helped children have Christmas presents, paid for young people to take part in diocesan activities, given a meal to the hungry and much much more.

Youth News

Trinity is now "between classes," that is, most of our children are very young or are in high school or college. Please let us know what your student or high school graduate is doing! **Caroling Party** - Plan ahead now for the annual caroling party. This year promises to be a banner event as we are promised some exceptional voices will be joining us. Mark December 21 on your calendars!

Altar Guild

December is a very busy month for the Altar Guild. If you'd like to help, please talk to Janice Beck (888-0836). There will be a brass polishing work party at some point as well as extra help during the "Greening of the Church" on December 21. All are welcome.

Pick up Choir

We are thinking about special music for Christmas Eve. Since we don't have a regular choir, we'll be "picking up" anyone who'd like to sing. Interested? Talk to our organist, Kay Bennett, or to Barbara.



Trinity Episcopal Church - November 2003

Last Pentecost
Advent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: 11/2 The Church in Wales 11/9 The Province of the Anglican Church of Congo 11/16 The extra-provincial Dioceses of Puerto Rico, Venezuela and the Falkland Islands; the extra-provincial Luthstorian Church of Portugal; the Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church 11/23 The Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil; 11/30 The Anglican Church of Kenya. Diocese of Kajo-Keji Refugee Camps: 11/2 Esia 11/9 Addi 11/16 Altwara 11/23 Mongolia 11/30 Olha. Diocese of Meath & Kildare Unions: 11/2 Mounmellick 11/9 Mullingar 11/16 Naas 11/23 Navan 11/30 Newbridge			Diocesan Cycle of Prayer 11/2 Episcopal Ministry of Unity: All Saints, Leighton/St. John's Palmerton, The Rev. Peter Harer, rector; The Rev. Daniel Fitzsimmons, Assistant 11/9 The Jubilee Ministry of all diocesan congregations; 11/16 Diocesan Stewardship Ministry; 11/23 St. Andrew's, Alden, The Rev. Donald Walk, Priest-in-Charge; 11/30 St. Andrew's, Allentown, The Rev. Leslie Evans, rector			
2 All Saints' Sunday 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 9:45 Godly Play 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour	3 All Souls Day <i>Heather Martin Brandon and Derek Coston</i>	4	5	6	7	8 Bishop's School, Cathedral, Bethlehem, 10 to 3:30
9 Pentecost 22 (Proper 27) 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 9:45 Godly Play 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour <i>Matthew Hollywood</i>	10 <i>Jim & Mary Patterson ('61)</i>	11	12	13 Presentation by Bishop Paul, Redeemer, 7-9 How we receive the Bible in Church; how we think about human sexuality	14 <i>(11/13) Ann Zukosky</i>	15 Bishop's School, Cathedral, Bethlehem, 10 to 3:30 <i>Carol Reed</i>
16 Pentecost 23 (Proper 28) 8:00 Holy Eucharist I Vestry Meets 9:45 Godly Play 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour <i>Hal & Ruby Jenney</i>	17 <i>St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre, 3 p.m.</i>	18	19	20	21 <i>(11/13) Ann Zukosky</i>	22 <i>Carol Reed</i>
23 Last Pentecost 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 9:45 Godly Play 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour <i>Ned & Barbara Cunn ('79)</i>	24 <i>Joe Coston</i>	25	26 Thanksgiving Worship, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer	27 Thanksgiving Day <i>Ruby Jenney Elizabeth Maneval</i>	28	29
30 First Sunday of Advent 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 9:45 Godly Play 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour			Parish Cycle of Prayer: 11/2 Jim and Mary Patterson; Andy Patterson 11/9 Stephen, Mary Beth, Chandler and Savannah Paul; 11/16 Fanna Proper, John and Carol Reed; 11/23 Vic and Carla Ross, John Schoonover; 11/30 Laura, T.J. and Tyler Smith; Roger and Mary Ann Smith		Coming in December: 12/4 A meeting with Bethlehem's General Convention Deputies, Christ Church, Towanda. 12/21 Greening of the Church (a.m.) Caroling Party (p.m.) 12/24 Carol Sing, 10:40 p.m. and Christmas Eucharist 11 p.m.	

Coffee Hour.. want to host coffee hour? Sign up, there's a list in the kitchen. Coffee is made ahead; just provide snacks and help clean up afterward.

Home visits? Would you like to be visited at home? Have communion brought to you? Please let Fr. Ned know.

Information, please! There is a wealth of information available via your email address. ACNS (the Anglican Communion News Service) will deliver news releases to you as they happen. Visit www.anglicancommunion.org/acns/acnslist.html

The Episcopal News Service is also available by email. Visit http://gc2003.episcopalchurch.org/ens/3577_11458_ENG_HTML.htm

Bethlehem has two outstanding lists you can be part of. One is a read only news service, the other includes all news items as well as discussion.

To join, visit www.diobeth.org and click on "Subscribe" in the right hand column.

Bishop's Blend Coffee is still available from the Church of the Redeemer. (it's wonderful coffee). Call their office at 888-2270 for information on ordering Decaf and Regular. It makes a great holiday gift and benefits Episcopal Relief and Development as well as the coffee growers.

Every Day,
in Every Way,
Give Thanks

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November at Trinity

