

Fall 2009

We are a community of Christian people seeking to love God with all of our hearts, souls, minds, and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves.



The Chimes of Trinity Church

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

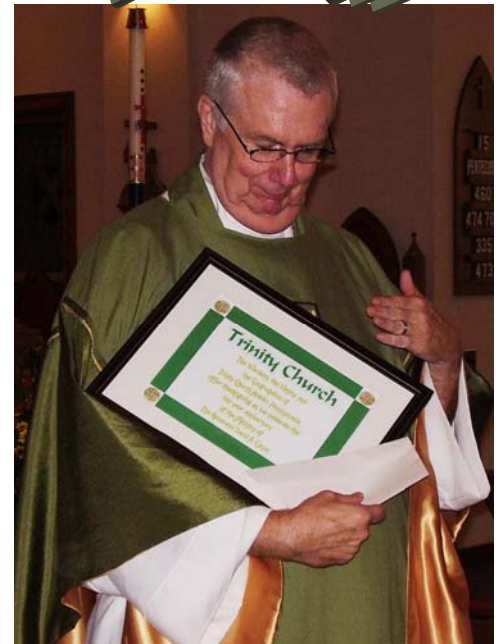
Dear Ones:

I still smile at the wonderful celebration we had on September 13 of our 10 years of ministry together. I knew something was going on but I had no idea whatsoever about the magnitude of the celebration! I have so many people to thank.

I want to thank Barb Davis, Anne Canan and Karen Reid for the most beautiful chausable and stole that I have ever laid my eyes upon. It's splendid in its craftsmanship but what makes it all the more beautiful is that it was designed and created by these gifted women.

I want to thank Leigh Irvin who made so much of the food for the luncheon and everyone else who brought food! I had a little bit of everything and it was all delicious. I want to thank Christie Irvin for letting me in on the secret luncheon right before church started!! I want to thank everyone else who helped set up before and clean up after the luncheon.

I want to apologize to Eileen Warren and all the other planners for rejecting the idea of a parish picnic on kick-off Sunday! If I had only known!



I want to thank you all for the generous gift and the beautiful plaque.

I want to thank Jimmy Hayden for the absolutely, as always, beautiful flowers that are still beautiful 12 days later!

I want to thank you all for the beautiful plate full of signatures. What a keepsake!

I want to thank Barb Davis for assembling the wonderful scrapbook of notes from so many of you.

Most of all I want to thank every single member of Trinity Church for the love, support and ministry we have shared these past ten years. Since I have been here I have baptized 86 people, mostly babies, and have been involved in presenting 86 people for confirmation, reception and reaffirmation. I have



presided at 46 marriages and 56 burials. I have been honored and privileged to share in the important events of the lives of so many of you.

As I read the notes in the scrapbook you presented me, I was really humbled. I laughed at some of the memories and cried at others! While I deeply appreciated every single affirmation I also know that over these 10 years I have let people down and disappointed them. For that I am sorry.

I am so excited about what lies ahead for each of us in the years to come. I wonder what will God do with us and through us, how will God bless us and use us to bless? That's the adventure of following Jesus!

Love to you all, Fr. Dave



Abundance

"True abundance comes not to those intent on securing wealth,
but to those who are willing to share a life of apparent scarcity."
Parker Palmer

Why is it that grasping, holding tight brings less, while releasing, letting go brings more? It's a paradoxical truth easy to deny because it goes against our instincts. We desire security, certainty and abundance. We become anxious when faced with apparent scarcity. Fear becomes the driving force and we hold back, clinging to what we possess.

Truth is - we are vulnerable creatures. We really don't know what tomorrow will bring. We can convince ourselves that we do, but we don't. Yes, we can plan, we can look forward, but each day brings its own unfolding – and it's not always predictable. What is the spiritual lesson in that? God wants us to trust – not in ourselves, but in God. Reality is, when we trust more in ourselves, we lose sight of God's message to us – the message that our lives are totally dependent on the holy Creator, Sustainer, Life-giver, and Pain-bearer of life.

Having had an opportunity to work in the church for many years, the fall season is typically the season of pledging to the church. Stewardship committees often meet throughout the summer preparing for a round of letters, sometimes dinners (or pig roast events of the decade), as well as bulletin inserts reminding the congregation of the need for pledged income. I have yet to discover the formula that consistently changes the hearts and minds of those who pledge to live more fully and abundantly by 'letting go' by increasing one's pledged income. The appeal is a ritual opportunity to be reminded of our utter dependence on God. The occasion calls for deeper reflection on our relationship to God and the church. What do you lose when you give more? More importantly, what do you gain when the grasp is loosened? If you're not sure, what do you lose by trying? What do you gain by releasing the grip and giving more of your treasure than you've ever given before? The only way to find out is to try it and see.

Rev. Mary McCullough

Youth Group



The Fall Season of Youth Group has begun and old and new friendships have rekindled and are burgeoning! Youth in 7th-12th grade are meeting weekly on Sunday nights from 6-8pm for fun and fellowship. We have a large group of approximately 20 youth this year with many fresh ideas and excitement. Our teens are not only interested in Fellowship but some have also committed themselves to a "Going Deeper" experience in which they participate in a multi-sensory worship service geared to their individual needs and prayer life. Gifted congregation members have also donated their time to share their knowledge and mentor our youth on a consistent basis. We are already brainstorming Mission Possible 2010 as well as ways to continually contribute to and improve our local community. We hope to be involved with the community of Chester on an ongoing basis and are brainstorming ideas of what a Teen Drop-In Center could look like in the city of Ambler. It is awe inspiring to be part of the Trinity Youth Group as the youth and adult mentors in our church community constantly remind me of God's eternal Grace and Love.

God Bless you! Kelly Rupprecht

*If you, your teen, or a friend is interested in the Youth Group please contact Kelly Rupprecht with any questions. We welcome anyone to attend and hope that you find us to be a diverse group of students (Grades 7-12) who celebrate that God has given us many different gifts and wants us to make what Jesus said 2,000 years ago relevant in our world today. Visit www.trinityambler.com and look under Youth Activities for contact information.



CHURCH SCHOOL EVENTS FOR FALL/WINTER 2009

- The Cherub choir will begin practice during class time in October, and will sing the first Sunday in November.
- We will be making Advent Wreaths in the parish hall on Sunday November 22.
- Christmas Pageant rehearsals will begin Sunday, November 29th, and continue Sunday, December 6th and 13th. Dress rehearsal is Saturday, December 19th from 9am-Noon for the pageant on Dec. 20th.

Carole Allsop, Church School Coordinator



Teacher Commissioning



Walking the Walk Comes to the Suburbs; Trinity Youth to Participate!

At a time when the political rhetoric seems to be more and more divisive and less and less tolerant of differences, when many of our political and religious leaders seem unable to respect the dignity of those who think differently than them a program has been developed to make change, a change that will be fostered among our young people.

Walking the Walk is a year-long interfaith youth program developed by the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia. It is a recognized youth development and leadership program that includes dynamic and relevant service learning experience. It is a way for teens to deepen their own identities while forging bonds and shattering stereotypes across faith lines. Young people who participate can expect to develop improved leadership and conflict resolution skills; pride in their own heritage, a deeper appreciation of the traditions and identities of others, strengthened commitment to addressing social issues, and an enhanced curiosity and ability to ask questions with respect.

Four students and two adult mentors from Trinity Church will join with young people and their mentors from Congregation Beth Or and Bethlehem Baptist Church in bringing this acclaimed program from out of the city into the suburbs. Trevor Gergen, Isabelle Helmich, Garion McCauley, and Jake Lawrence will represent Trinity Church. Katherine Driggs and Ryann Deviso will be their adult mentors.

Pastoral Care Corner

by Addie M. Johnson

THE TRINITY NURSE CORP

Our group of Trinity Nurses provide an essential service every third Sunday both at 8am and 10am services: Blood Pressure Monitoring. Parishioners express their appreciation of having a medical service available between visits with physicians. In addition, helpful information is distributed that keep parishioners up to date on various current topics.

In addition, Jennifer Prater, Nurse Corp Leader, has accessed sanitizer dispensers for the Narthex, near the Nursery, and near upper and downstairs restrooms. Jen says "a little squirt goes a long way, so only one squirt is necessary!"

She also uses Jingle reminders regarding use of different types of greetings at the "Peace" rather than shaking hands. This is very important now that both the regular flu season and the appearance of the H1N1 virus is upon us.

First Aid Kits are now available in the Parish Hall and near the downstairs Sunday School rooms.

Trinity appreciates our Nurse Corp group and *Invites Others to Join The Nurses*...if interested, email Jen Prater at prater94@msn.com



The Flu and the Holy Eucharist

Flu season is upon us. Although the Swine Flu (H1N1) epidemic has turned out to be much milder than anticipated, the truth is that people die of the flu every year. The following are some reminders and some actions we are taking at Trinity Church which we hope will keep us all healthier this flu season.

1. The Parish Nurse has ordered and we will soon be installing hand sanitizers in the church school hallway, the parish hall and near the entrance to the church. Frequent hand washing is an important strategy in fighting the flu.
2. The Parish Nurse also reminds us that we do not need to feel compelled to shake hands or hug during the passing of the peace. One might wave, give the peace sign, bow, or do a fist bump instead.
3. Remembering that the flu is airborne and passed hand to hand, you may not want to bless yourselves with the blessed water in the stoops at the church entrance.
4. The Clergy, Eucharistic Ministers, and Chalicists will thoroughly wash their hands at the altar before serving the Eucharist.
5. If you have concerns about drinking from the common cup you may want to skip the cup altogether when it comes. We believe that the fullness of Christ is contained in both or either of the elements alone.
6. If you intinct (dip your host into the cup of wine) please be careful not to get your fingers into the wine.
7. Studies about the use of the common cup and illness suggest that those who drink from the common cup are no more likely to become



Deacon's Roundtable

Greetings to the faithful at Trinity Church in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the first of what I hope will be many communications with you as your deacon. I use it as a way of introduction. I met with your rector, David Canan and Assistant Mary on August 26 and then again on September 25 to finalize the agreement we will have to conduct the ministry we share together. I have had the pleasure of worshipping with you in the past. Only a very few of you knew who I was and that was OK as I wanted to be inconspicuous. I give thanks to Almighty God that you have called me to be present with you as your Deacon.

I have known your rector for many years. I have served with him on a Cursillo weekend, and we have become good friends. I look forward to continuing that friendship as we serve together in our ministry with you.

Let me give you a thumbnail sketch of who Deacon Joe Dietz is and what you can expect from him. I am 71 and married to my wife Shirley for 48 years. We have two sons and four grandchildren. I graduated from Lebanon Valley College in 1960 with a major in Chemistry and a minor in Philosophy and Religion. I taught Chemistry and Physics in the Derry Township School District then worked as a bench and research chemist for 10 years in the Boyertown area. I served 17 years on the Pottstown Police Department as a police officer in charge of records and evidence, sold real estate for a few years after retirement and worked with the New Hanover Township road department for about 5 years. I answered the call to the ordained ministry in 1990 and was ordained a Deacon in 1994. My ministry has and will continue to be diaconal – that is – serving Jesus Christ in the poor, the sick and dying, and those cast aside by society. I have served as a hospice chaplain for almost 10 years and was Chaplain at a nursing home in the Pottstown area for 3 years. I am also a volunteer fireman with over 40 year of service, presently serving as an engineer (truck driver) and secretary of the New Hanover Fire Company. I have also served on the Boards of Directors for the Dolphins of Delaware Valley, the Gilbertsville Ambulance Service and the Pottstown Senior Center.

As your Deacon, I will be present at Sunday services and other major services throughout the year. A Deacon's duties include reading the Gospel lesson, inviting the congregation to confess their sins, assist with the prayers of the people, setting the table for Eucharist and giving the dismissal at the end of the service. In no way will I replace the ministry of the laity at the services. You will also find me involved with your Eucharistic Visitors in visiting the sick and shut-ins. I will also be involved and hopefully involve some of you in outreach ministries to the greater Ambler area.

I feel truly blessed to have been called to serve you in our Lord's name and to help you bring more souls to the feet of Christ. I pray God will bless our ministry together as we serve his son Jesus Christ.

In Christ's Love,
Deacon Joe

Discovery Workshop - November 6 and 7

The Discovery Workshops are designed to help participants find meaning and purpose through discovering and affirming:

What they do best - (life gifts and spiritual gifts)

The places and atmospheres that give them the most energy -
(personality types and values)

The purposes God placed in their hearts - (passions)

On Friday, November 6, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 7, 8:30a.m. until 4:00 p.m. discover who you are. Participants affirm what they have long known about themselves and gain new insights into their lives and have fun doing it. Cost is \$25.00, which includes workshops materials and supper on Friday and lunch on Saturday. Checks may be made out to Trinity church and sent to the office. Be sure to write "Discovery Workshop" on the memo line. Please register on the sign-up sheet found on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you have any questions please contact Reita Detweiler ReitaDetweiler@msn.com or Ted Olson teo424ols@verizon.net for more information.



Three Members of Trinity are Discerning Calls to the Priesthood.

Ted Olson, Dennis Reid, Jr., and Ben Wallis believe that they are being called by God to serve the Episcopal Church as priests. Over the next several years, through a clearly prescribed process, these men will further discern that call.

The ordination process began for each of them by informal conversations with Fr. Dave. Because Fr. Dave believed that each of them had gifts for ministry and may well be called by God to the priesthood; Fr. Dave met with Bishop Lee, who presently is overseeing the ordination process. Following that conversation, Dennis and Ben met with Bishop Lee and Ted met with Bishop Michel. (Ted, a former priest in the Roman Catholic Church, met with Bishop Michel who gives special oversight to clergy being received from other denominations.)

Following their meetings with the Bishop Ted, Dennis and Ben were approved to move forward in the process. In their immediate future each one of them will be visiting Northeast Career and Counseling Center where they will undergo a number of psychological and vocational tests and evaluations to determine their readiness for ministry. They also will be meeting about 9 times for 2-3 hours each time with their Parish Advisory Committee on Ministry. (PACM)

A PACM has been appointed by Fr. Dave for each man. These groups of about 9 members each, being coordinated by Karen Reid, Eddie Black and Reita Detweiler, will meet with "aspirants" working through a series of topics, intended to help the committee and the aspirant discern and understand their calls. When the PACMS has finished their work they will recommend or not recommend to Fr. Dave and the Vestry that the aspirant continue in the process.

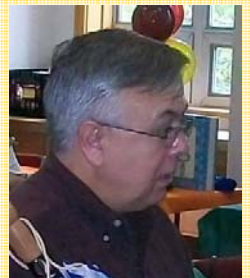
In early February the aspirants will attend a Pre- Postulancy Conference at which they will meet with members of the Commission on Ministry for more questioning and discernment. If the Commission discerns a call to the Priesthood, the aspirants will be made Postulants.

Postulants will undergo their theological education, being examined along the way. They will meet again with the Commission on Ministry, and if all goes well at that point be made candidates for ordination. Once they have been made candidates, they will undergo more psychological testing, take ordination exams, be approved by the Standing Committee and if all goes well; then be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate and six months to one year later be ordained priests!!

This whole process is surrounded by prayer. Please keep Ted, Dennis and Ben in your prayers.

My name is Ted Olson.

I am a native of Wilmington, DE. A lifelong Roman Catholic, including 25 years as a priest, I was received into the Episcopal Church on October 30, 2005 by Bishop Wayne Wright, the Bishop of Delaware. It was a decision that was many years in the making. In late December 2006, my partner Jack and I purchased a home in the area, and I began looking for a parish to join. I checked out several churches and spoke with a few rectors. After attending liturgy at Trinity and talking with Fr. Dave I decided to join Trinity. Need you ask why?



For some time now, I have been thinking about asking to have my RC ordination accepted for ministry as a priest in the Episcopal Church. As a priest, I loved preaching and celebrating the Eucharist, and I have felt a persistent and strong inner urge to return to this form of ministry. I am now a licensed therapist, as well as a spiritual director. While these ministries are satisfying, I still sense a call, at least to explore a return to priestly ministry.

So, with Dave and Mary's support, I met with Bishop Michel in late May. Since then, he has given Dave the go ahead to form a PACM for the purpose of helping me to discern if ordained ministry is *how* God may want me to exercise the call to ministry that all of us have by our baptism. My personal goal at this time is to keep my ego needs from attempting to direct an outcome, so that I may be open to what the Spirit may be saying through the Church.

Throughout the fall, I will be meeting with the eight other parishioners who are generously giving of themselves as members of my PACM. Would you please keep us in your prayers, that we may be open and free to know and do God's will? Thank you.

Ben Wallis

I was baptized at the age of 10 years old by immersion in a Plymouth Brethren congregation. Remembering my baptism has been an important element of my faith journey. I grew up in a Christian household and went to a Christian elementary school; faith was a large part of my early development. In high school I was involved in some para-church organizations, but retained my fundamentalist upbringing.



It wasn't until college that I questioned my fundamentalist background. I studied philosophy and theology, and the more I studied the more interested I became in a catholic style of worship. Cori and I decided to try worship at a local Episcopal Church. Cori and I fell in love with the liturgy, and began to attend worship regularly at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Quakertown, where we were confirmed and then married. At Emmanuel under the guidance of the rector I began to discern a possible call to the priesthood.

My discernment continued as we changed membership to Trinity Episcopal Church at Ambler. No other Christian community has been a bigger part of my faith formation than Trinity. The community welcomed us in and made us feel at home. We became very involved, especially in the youth program. Under Father Dave I continued to discern a call to ordination. During the moratorium on ordination in the diocese I thought that my call might be in question, but knew that no matter what I would do with my life, seminary education was the next step in my educational journey. Cori and I made the decision that God was calling me to seminary study, and that the end result of that study would be left in His hands. I began attending Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Shortly thereafter, the moratorium was lifted and I began the process of discerning my ministry in community. Seminary has been spiritually nourishing beyond my expectations. Today, Cori and I happily reside in Mt. Airy on seminary campus, and eagerly await what God is going to do next in our lives.

Dennis Reid

Discerning a call to the ordained ministry has thus far been the most spiritually challenging and invigorating time of my life. It has been a period of prayer and question: sometimes with answers, yet more often bringing more questions. I'm very much looking forward to the next few years in hopes of deepening my faith, learning the skills necessary to be a priest at seminary, and hopefully, finding some answers to the many questions Christianity has to offer. Many steps still must be taken until seminary though, and many steps came before the current step, the PACM (Parish Advisory Committee on Ministry).



At least when one gets further into the ordination process (like now) there are forms, meetings, interviews, and other concrete steps with tangible goals. The beginning of the process is quite the opposite; while full of questions, one must truly act upon a call by faith alone. I was never entirely sure about my call until about three years ago in college. I had been hearing a call for a year until then, but I didn't even want to talk about it with most people. I began to feel comfortable with my call when I started studying Christianity at school and conversing with others about faith. The more I studied and spoke about faith, I quickly realized that hearing a call shouldn't be seen as wrong or as a mistake, but instead, as a request from God that must be acted upon. I see my call as an opportunity not only to lead a parish but also to help others deepen their relationship with Christ through preaching and the sacraments. I remember it feeling very daunting at the time because I wasn't sure if I could see myself as a priest. Was this what I wanted to do with my life? What if I have other plans?

Looking back, I was never saying "no" to my call, but postponing my own acceptance of it. When I finally decided to begin answering God's call, I was still a bit anxious, but thankfully, there are those who can guide us on our journey and at least put us in the right direction. Fr. Dave was (and still is) one of those people for me, and our talks have been essential to the development of my faith and understanding of Christianity. Technically, the ordination process began for me while having lunch with Dave when I broke the news. He wasn't surprised with my decision, and in the end, neither was I. I've always felt quite close to God, and the ordination process has been an exciting opportunity to get to know Him better.

While the above is the very brief summation of my thought process to this point, the journey has just begun. The PACM is a group of people from one's parish who will prayerfully discern with the nominee through their questions and viewpoints in order to evaluate if the nominee is qualified to continue the ordination process. With eight meetings of at least two hours time, it is a great commitment for the members of the PACM, and I am grateful for their dedication and efforts to help me. In considering my history, faith, and understanding of the church, I hope that both the members the PACM and I will learn more about the nature of my call, understand what it means to be an ordained minister, and to become closer to Christ through the entire process.

A Biking Ministry for Two

A report by Addie M. Johnson

Gretchen and Andrew Pendleton have engaged in two wonderful ministries displaying their love for biking and their love of mankind.

First, Gretchen, under the auspices of Bristol-Myers Squibb, arrived in Johannesburg, South Africa on September 19th with a group destined to build 260 bikes in two days ...of course with an initial lesson in bike-building! This project, entitled Bike-Town Africa was initiated five years ago by Rodale, Inc., a non-profit publisher of Bicycling Magazine, with its main sponsor being Bristol Myers Squibb's "Secure the Future" Program among others. The main purpose of the project was to provide bikes to enable health-care workers to visit people infected with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other illnesses and distribute anti-retroviral drugs and home-based care in addition to providing educational materials for self-protection.

Bike-Town Africa has delivered more than 1700 bikes to workers in Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa and Swaziland. Bristol-Myers Squibb has a \$150 million corporate commitment to fighting aids in Africa, especially in Botswana where the rate is 17%, down from 38%. The bike parts, constructed to meet local conditions, are donated by the Kona Company; the UTI organization provides transportation and manufacturing support.

After working tirelessly for two days, Gretchen and the other volunteers from the US, Europe and So Africa, visited a Children's Care Center for AIDS orphans and children who live in child headed households or whose parents are dying of AIDS, outside of Soweto, the "southwest townships" of Johannesburg. While there, she saw one of their bike recipients ride by. Gretchen said "the smiles [of the children] were priceless and their energy big"..."doing something simple as a bike to change lives". You can view Gretchen on YouTube by using the site: www.biketownafrica.org to learn more about the organization.

The second ministry that involved both Andrew and Gretchen occurred on October 3rd when they engaged in the MS City to Shore bike ride, sponsored by numerous corporations and health organizations. Riders originating in Cherry Hill, Hammonton and Mays Landing all rode toward a finish in Ocean City, New Jersey. Both Andrew and Gretchen raised a great deal of money to support this cause, riding as part of the Fox Chasers team. The objective was to "create a world face for MS". For Information regarding the MS Bike Race : www.bikepae.nationalmssociety.org

Trinity Episcopal Church salutes Andrew and Gretchen for their heartfelt commitment!



This is something we should all read at least once a week!

Written By Regina Brett, 90 years old, of The Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio "To celebrate growing older, I once wrote the 45 lessons life taught me. It is the most-requested column I've ever written." My odometer rolled over to 90 in August, so here is the column once more:

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer..
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, don't save it for a special occasion. *Today* is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time, time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
42. The best is yet to come.
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up..
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.



NOTES FROM THE RECTOR'S FORUM ON CHURCH FINANCES

During our listening groups last spring, it came up several times that we do not talk about money enough!! It's not that we don't talk about money but rather that we don't talk about it at the time we are making our pledges. Of course, we talk budget and finances at the annual meeting but that's about 3 months AFTER people have made their pledges. The thought was that people need to clearly understand the money needs of the parish.

Trinity Church is an amazing parish. We are in no way average! That truth really hits home as one reads the findings from a 2008 Survey of Episcopal Congregations.

Did you know that median seating capacity of an Episcopal Church is 175 persons. When we are full, counting the choir and seating in the transept, we seat around 350.

The average worship attendance in Episcopal Churches is 70 or less. Our attendance hovers around 200.

We are like the majority of Episcopal Churches in that we have more than one Sunday worship service on a weekend and also that the worship style varies between the services.

The median Episcopal congregation has about 168 members. We have about 500.

A majority of Episcopal Churches and Missions report that more than half of their membership is 50 years of age or older. Trinity Church has an even distribution of ages.

11% of Episcopal Congregations report that they have no youth, NO YOUTH. Trinity Church has about 100 members under 16.

Regarding church finances, lots changed for Episcopal congregations in 2008. (Can you say stock market crash?) 32% of Episcopal parishes reported that their financial health was good or excellent in 2008. That is down from 56% in 2005. 25% of the parishes reported that they are in serious financial difficulty. Up 12% from 2005.

Trinity's financial health is fair to poor. AND THESE DAYS THAT AIN'T BAD!

The Average pledge for one year in the Episcopal Church is \$1684. The average pledge for Trinity Church is \$1404.

The number of pledges for 2009 was 139.

Our operating budget is \$510K

58% of the budget is payroll and payroll related expenses: The average percentage of budget for payroll in the Episcopal Church is 51%.

About 13% of the budget is for building maintenance.

Here is the biggest area of concern: Only 58% of our expenses are covered from plate and pledge income. 35% of our expenses are paid from investment transfers and other income.

Because of excellent market performance, and a finance team that is on the ball, until 2008 covering that 35% gap between pledges and budget did not effect our overall holdings. That is no longer true.

Our investment balance at the end of July was \$1,384,000. If nothing changes our total investments will be exhausted in 7 years.

So what could change?

The stock market could turn around. The September finance report showed the first increase we have seen in our holdings in a long time.

The average pledge could increase and the number of pledges could increase. John Dziel notes that 200 people increasing their pledges slightly less than \$10 per week could close the gap!

A benefactor could leave the church a substantial gift!

After Fr. Dave made his presentation there was time for questions and answers and some important ideas were offered and will be addressed by the appropriate ministry teams.

The Stewardship Team can increase its efforts in providing information about legacy or planned giving which includes establishing trusts for the benefit of the church, remembering Trinity in our wills, naming the church as benefactor on insurance policies, and more.

We can establish a process by which members can make donations in church in memory or thanksgiving for a loved one or friend.

We might make it easier for folks to contribute by researching direct deposits, credit/debit card payments and the like.

Provide opportunities for members to give to specific needs or projects. (Such as door replacement or some mission/outreach vesture).

cont...

In addition to including this summary in the Chimes it was suggested that it be sent out to the congregation as an email blast as well.

As a parish church our bottom line is not our bottom line. As important as finances are, and we take them very seriously and our finance team tries to stay on top of our needs, our bottom line is ministry.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF CHRISTIAN PEOPLE COMMITTED TO LOVING GOD WITH ALL OF OUR HEART, SOUL, MIND AND STRENGTH AND OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES. We've got to believe that if we are seeking to be faithful to this call, God will provide everything we need to get the job done. If the money doesn't keep up with the cost of ministry then we will adjust what and how we are doing our work and work even harder to hear God's voice for our work.



Ministries Fair

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Web: www.trinityambler.com

The Staff of Trinity Church

The Rev. David A. Canan, Rector
rector@trinityambler.com

The Rev. Mary McCullough, Associate Rector
mary@trinityambler.com

Stephen Schreiber, Director of Music
rns89@aol.com

Carole Allsop, Christian Education Director
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John Dziel, Financial and IT Administrator
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Sheila Bistany, Office Administrator
office@trinityambler.com

Morgan Beam, Nursery:
morganbeam@hotmail.com

Kelly Rupprecht, Youth Minister
kellyrupprecht101@msn.com



The Vestry of Trinity Church

Barbara Davis	Rector's Warden
Brian Phillips	Communications
Ernest Dixon	Accounting Warden
Jay Walton	Property
Cheryl Bayard	Clerk of Vestry / Christian Formation
Addie Johnson	Pastoral Care
Eileene Warren	Parish Life
Karen Reid	New Members
Sue Adair	Worship
Ed Mahler	Mission and Outreach
Nancy McGarvey	Stewardship
Piers Prater	Property

Chimes submissions to chimes@trinityambler.com

Births:

Wesley Daniel Zacharia born on June 13, 2009
John James Fields born on August 18, 2009
Braden Robert Vorchheimer born on August 21, 2009

Deaths:

Helen Jordan on June 30, 2009
Walter Butterworth on August 31, 2009
William Wilson on September 14, 2009
Frances Atkinson on September 29, 2009

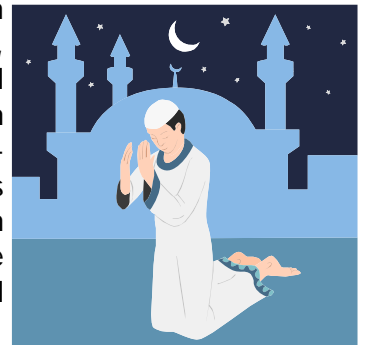
Baptisms:

Samantha Nicole Bubser on August 23, 2009

Transfers Out:

Donna Edwards to Church of the Holy Spirit, Lebanon, NJ on September 17, 2009
Charles, Valerie & Alicia Rajca to Christ Episcopal Church, Somers Point, NJ on September 18, 2009.

Seminary student **Benjamin Wallis** is traveling to India this January on an educational mission trip. The purpose of the trip is to become exposed to the paradox of poverty and prosperity in a context of economic globalization within a multi faith society. He will explore how the church struggles to witness in a context of the polarization of religions, the urban-rural divide, and growing denominationalism that impacts the unity of the church. Ben is hoping to raise up to \$3000, which is the cost of travel and food. Donations to Ben's trip can be sent to the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia 7301 Germantown Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19119 marked "care of Benjamin Wallis' student account", or donations can be sent to Ben directly at the same address but addressed to his name.



Summer Memories...



Church School
Sunday & Picnic



Reading Phillies





July & September
"Scrap Happens"
Scrapbooking
Club



Youth
Mission
Trip to
West
Virginia



Real Men Cooking



Mary's 1st Grandbaby!