



Spring 2006

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

A Letter from the Rector...

How do we grow spiritually??

Dear Ones:

I just received the results of the congregational life survey we completed several months ago. I haven't yet begun to digest the findings but some numbers stood out to me.

94% of you said that your spiritual needs are being met in this congregation.

61% of you said that what you valued most about the congregation are the sermons.

27% of you said that you are growing in your faith through participation in this congregation.

There are so many more statistics in that report and making some sense of them will take time.

I am thrilled that 94% of you say that your spiritual-needs are being met here at Trinity.

My head swelled up a bit (well a lot really) when I read that the majority of you found my sermons to be the thing you valued most about the congregation.

It was like a kick in the stomach to read that only 27% of you report that you are growing spiritually through your participation in this congregation. You see I would say that if we are not growing spiritually then our spiritual-needs are not being met. I would say that if we are not growing spiritually then my wonderful sermons are not all that wonderful!

Does the lack of spiritual growth mean that most of us are satisfied with our spiritual-lives as they are? Does it mean that we do not offer enough opportunities or the wrong opportunities to help us grow spiritually? Does it mean for two-thirds of us that the busyness and demands of day-to-day life push spiritual matters to the back seat? Could it mean that we have allowed the busyness of church push issues of spiritual growth to the back seat? You can bet we are going to be talking about this at our next Vestry meeting!

Here are three questions that I ask of myself about my own spiritual life. I learned them by participating in a Cursillo reunion group back many years ago back in Pittsburgh.

1. When in the last week (or month) have I felt closest to God? Why?
 2. What I have learned in the last week (or month) that deepened my relationship with God?
- What have I done in the last week (or month) to share the love of Christ with someone?

For me, answering those 3 simple questions put my spiritual life in the front seat where it belonged. For me it was both comforting and challenging to answer those questions in a small group where sometimes I was inspired by the group and others I was inspiring to them.

This fall we are going to start fellowship groups that will meet in homes. These groups will meet once a month over a meal. The real fellowship will grow when we spend time in these groups answering those 3 simple questions.

I hope you will consider being a part of one of the groups.

Fondly,

Fr. Dave

In this issue...

Refugee Project

What's New

Letter from Kelly Rupprecht

And More...

Grounds and Property Update

A Grounds Clean-up Day was held in April. More dates will follow and we will need assistance maintaining and beautifying our church grounds. We all enjoy a nice looking property. If you can only provide one hour, please do so!

A meeting was held with one of the original architects of the church. We toured the buildings and reviewed the problem areas. The gentleman was surprised by the extent of our leaks in the facility. Member David Manchester presented his solution to the problem of insufficient downspout capacity and the architect was thoroughly impressed. These copper boxes fit in the top of the downspouts are in the fabrication stage with installation soon to follow.

Davoli Lawn Service has been approved as our lawn maintenance company this season.

The committee purchased a previously-approved set of collapsible scaffolding. This will greatly assist in the on-going maintenance issues with the lighting and ceiling areas in the narthex and sanctuary.

Committee members have invested time itemizing, ordering, and replacing batteries in the back-up lighting system and exit signage throughout the buildings. These are required for safety reasons in case of an emergency and have not been maintained.

For the parsonage, a contractor has been hired to replace the 'soft' flooring on the front and rear porches. This is due to the fact that a visitor recently had his foot go through the flooring.

The committee has inquired about the requirements for a basement toilet facility for the Sunday School classrooms.



Future projects include *but are not limited to*: dead-wood tree maintenance, parking lot restriping to maximize capacity, necessary wall repair and painting due to leak repairs throughout the buildings

Trinity Pastoral Care Corner

Addie M. Johnson

Trinity's Pastoral Care Program is uniquely designed to meet the needs of all our parishioners. Components of our forthcoming program are as follows:

Five Eucharistic Visitors/Ministers selected to expand and supplement the work of the rector include Roger Clarke, Al Mathis, Addie Johnson, Scotti Kershner, and Reita Detweiler. Our visitors engage in training with Fr. Dave and are assigned homebound parishioners within their geographic areas.

Transportation for the Elderly and Disabled: Coordinators will work with volunteers to provide this service; parishioners in need may contact Fr. Dave.

Meals for Individuals/Families in Special Circumstances: Those who are in need of this service may contact our Parish Nurse, Jen Prater. Coordinators and volunteers have been selected to provide this ministry.

Financial Planning/Family Relationships: John and Kathy Guerin once again will offer this informative and valuable workshop in mid-October 2006.

Couples Communication Seminar: workshops will be offered through the Council for Relationships during the 2006-7 year.

Seminars for Parents of Adolescents/ Young Infants: Programs designed to meet varied parental needs are in the planning stages for next year.

What's New At www.Trinityambler.com ?

By John Dziel

Two online forums have been added to our website. These will be useful for open chat, and on line meetings when it is impractical to have face-to-face meetings at the church.

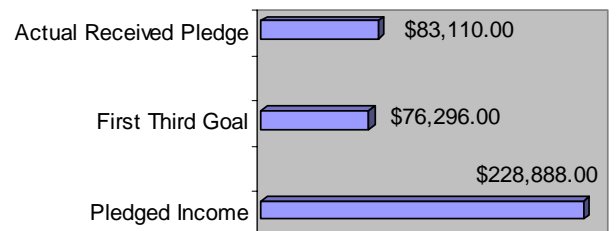
Trinity Chat is a moderated chat room, which can be found on the "Youth Activities" page. You do not need to download any software to use the room, and it requires no password to enter. The room, however, is not available unless a moderator is available to keep an eye on things. If your group is interested in using the room, please see John Dziel for more information.

The Trinity Online Conference Room is available for a more of a business like setting. As with "Trinity Chat", the room is very easy to use and can be run on almost any PC or Mac. Currently, this room is found by clicking on our site map (bottom of opening page.) Look for "Conference Room" on the page. When meetings are scheduled, participants will receive an "Event Code" to allow them to enter.

Both rooms can handle up to 100 guests at the same time. With space at Trinity at an all-time premium, these rooms are intended to provide an alternative. They are not designed to replace face-to-face meetings, which is always the best alternative. But, for times when something comes up at the last minute, or there is two feet of snow on the ground, these rooms allow for meetings without ever leaving the comfort of home!



2006 Pledged Income Progress



Pictures from the Diocese of Pennsylvania Spring Assembly of the Daughters of the King



Inter-Faith Housing Alliance

Helping Families Overcome Homelessness

P.O. Box 141
Ambler, PA 19002
phone: 215-628-2334 • fax: 215-643-5194
www.i-fha.org

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Richard E. Thompson

April 11, 2006

Trinity Episcopal Church
708 South Bethlehem Pike
Ambler, PA 19002

Dear Trinity Episcopal Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$200 to Inter-Faith Housing Alliance, which has been committed to serving the needs of homeless families in Montgomery County since 1982.

All of our funding comes from the faithful support of our donors. Your gift helps us to provide shelter, transitional housing, hotline help, assistance with heating and electric bills, and many services that teach life skills that help individuals and families overcome homelessness. The demand for our services is growing, and children have become the largest part of the population we serve.

As always, we are committed to them and to enabling families to grow strong together, prevent homelessness, and get back into the community again.

Thank you for your help now and for your continuing support.

Sincerely,



Rich Thompson
Executive Director

RT/bst

This is your receipt for tax purposes for the gift you made to us.
There were no goods or services provided to you in exchange for your gift

Behind the Scenes: Refugee Project: Called For Giving More But Also Taught Lessons

By Bess Stroh

The mission had a dramatic storyline: A young family facing persecution in Russia seeks asylum and a new beginning in America. Seizing the opportunity, with only an hour to prepare for their journey, the husband and wife leave the rural homeland with their preschooler and baby. They arrive at Philadelphia International Airport in the middle of the night, carrying only a suitcase and necessary documentation. Parishioners of Trinity Episcopal Church, which had committed to establishing the Russian family, stood ready last May to embrace the refugees.

Father Dave hosted the family while volunteers whipped together the sexton's cottage on church grounds to serve as a temporary home. Church members donated food, clothes and household goods. They also were on hand to transport and otherwise support Ilkham and Mavluda Mustapayeva and their two girls, Sevda and Dilyara, for what was believed would be a four month transition period.

After that period, it was expected the Mustapayevas would be able to make their own way, having been oriented to employment and housing options, government benefits, and education, health and social services in the region. Other

Meskhethian Turks, including relatives of the Mustapayevas, were to be resettled in the area through coordination of Lutheran Children and Family Service, adding to a network the family could rely on. But this new ministry for Trinity proved to be far more demanding than anticipated by anyone, especially the volunteers who juggled the day-to-day responsibility for the refugees.

In the countless hours they invested, Leslie Vacante and Jen Prater confronted language and cultural barriers; unexpected physical and mental health issues; differences in expectations and values and the complexities of family dynamics that were completely out of their control. There also were more than a few surprises, ranging from emergency room visits to an overnight hospital stay to a grease fire in the cottage that called out two local fire companies.

As it turned out, nearly 11 months passed before the Mustapayevas moved out of the sexton's cottage to pursue life independent from the Trinity parish: In April, they relocated to Hagerstown, MD, where Ilkham's brother lives and works and where Ilkham believes it will be less expensive to live.

Despite the unexpected duration of the project, the unexpected issues and frustrations, the sacrificed vacation time and, by the end, the sheer exhaustion, Leslie Vacante says she would consider volunteering for another refugee resettlement. "All in all, I think it was a positive experience for me," she says. "I would do it again. I think we had the most difficult situation, and I think we could do anything at this point." She's heard that other area churches had easier experiences in establishing refugees, but knows there was "a reason why" Trinity's proved so challenging. "We still haven't figured that out yet."

Leslie, who works full time as a home health care coordinator, was responsible for many of the logistics of settling the refugees, including helping the family acquire Social Security identification, food stamps and public assistance. She also set out to find employment for Ilkham, not an easy task considering his work history was limited to farming with simple tools and he only was beginning to learn English.

It took until August to get Ilkham his first job, Leslie recounts, and then he was injured and out of work within a week. By late August, he was working again, this time at a recycling plant in King of Prussia. But then Leslie was drawn in to fielding interference between Ilkham and his boss. "His work ethic wasn't ours," Leslie says of Ilkham. Coming from a societal background with much less structure, Ilkham had issues adjusting to working every day. There also were incidents at work that prompted the boss to call. Those times exemplified the cultural differences that made the ministry so frustrating and also enlightening, Leslie says. Trinity volunteers came to understand the Mustapayevas had to choose their own lives here, rather than leading the lives others thought they could. "Once we realized that, it was easier to manage," Leslie says.

That truth came to light again in the family's response to Mavluda's struggle with social isolation, anxiety and depression. That illness peaked several times from last September through March and was a major reason for the family's extended stay under Trinity's care. In addition to an effort to support Mavluda, there was concern about the well-being of the Mustapayeva girls, ages 4 and 1. At one point, after a meeting with Father Dave, Ilkham brought an older woman to stay at the cottage to help. Four-year-old Dilyara also was sent for part of the winter to stay with her grandparents in New Jersey.

Jen Prater, Trinity's Parish Nurse, worked to get Mavluda the help she needed, including finding the young mother, who also suffers from a hearing disability, a psychiatrist and a Turkish-speaking psychologist Jen transported Mavluda to those visits, managed her medications and joined the effort to counsel Ilkham on taking over care of his wife – a significant challenge in light of the fact he came out of a culture in which women typically are left to support each other and men are considerably more independent in family life. It was Jen who stayed overnight with Mavluda at Abington Hospital at one crisis point, an act of dedication she didn't really stop to think about. Believing she was doing God's work in helping the refugees, she knew "this is just what I am supposed to do." Jen, mother to two young children, had intended to limit her role in the resettlement to managing medical issues. As it happened, she found her life quite integrated with the lives of the refugee family: Her children played with the Mustapayeva children. She baked bread with Mavluda. She took Ilkham and his brother-in-law on an electronics shopping spree. Overall, the experience proved to be "life changing," says Jen. "I really learned a lot about myself." She too struggled with the question of "how much of our own values do we put on (the Mustapayevas)." And because of the family's continuing and intense dependencies, Jen learned to prioritize the demands being placed upon her. She says she had to make a choice to attend to her own family first.

all of the unforeseen challenges and frustrations, the resettlement project did, in the final analysis, achieve its original goal. Responding to a deadline from Father Dave, Ilkham came up with a plan of family self-sufficiency and, with some moving and start-up money from the Trinity parish, packed up the cottage and took his family to Maryland. Jen recalls Ilkham's resourcefulness in seeking out the Russian community in Northeast Philadelphia last summer and in obtaining his driver's license, a car and car insurance without Trinity's help. She believes the family, proven survivors in their previous lives in Russia, will be fine. "They'll figure it out. They have the resources and the networking skills."



Stewardship It's Not (Always) About the Money....

It's Spring! This is my favorite time of the year; I love how everything looks so fresh and new with lots of beautiful blooms and colors. It also signifies the start of gardening season.

I come from a family of gardeners and while I love home-grown, fresh-picked produce, I wish I could say I inherited their enthusiasm for and love of the work involved in producing such goodies—but I don't. Which is why I was interested in speaking at the Carnival last year with the woman who was there representing Pennypack Farm. This local farm is one of hundreds of CSA's (Community Supported Agriculture) across the country. The CSA's grow produce locally and sell shares in the crops. Local customers buy the shares which entitle them to a certain amount of produce each week. It's a way to get delicious home-grown, fresh-picked produce from a local source. Your share helps support sustainable agriculture (from the Pennypack Farm website):



By contrast, community supported agriculture using natural and organic farming methods aims to be ecologically and economically sustainable over long and even indefinite periods of time. By reducing or eliminating adverse side effects we also reduce or eliminate the hidden or delayed costs associated with them, and the true unit cost of food production is paid by the consumer. CSAs also help promote a sense of community and intimate connection with the vital processes that sustain all life.

Sounds like good stewardship to me! To find more information check out their website at <http://www.pennypackfarm.org/> or contact the Farm at 215-646-3943

And although I don't garden much, I do get e-mail newsletters from the Primex Garden Center in Glenside. Their last one had an article about a program I'd never heard about before: Roots of Peace—Mines to Vines. This is a "humanitarian organization dedicated to eradicating landmines worldwide and rehabilitating the land to make it productive once more" .

This organization was started right in the California wine-growing region and has reached worldwide proportions. Founder Heidi Kuhn was prompted to begin the campaign after the death of Princess Diana who had worked so hard for landmine eradication.

Another example of good stewardship! More information at Roots of Peace (<https://www.tigertech.net/ssl/rootsofpeace.org/home.htm>) or write to them:
U.S. HEADQUARTERS 1299 Fourth St., Ste 200 San Rafael, CA 94901 (1-888-ROOTS-31)

And finally, spring marks the winding down of the program year here at Trinity. It seems such a short time ago that we had the Ministries Fair and looked forward to the start of our year! Many, many thanks go out to each and every one of our Trinity Stewards—for the countless hours and unselfish sharing of talents that we've witnessed over the last months. And thanks in advance for all the hard work going into this year's Carnival! Our Carnival is almost the ultimate in a stewardship experience: we start by sharing our buildings and grounds and hospitality with the community and we come full circle by donating so much of our proceeds back into that community (and to the greater national and global community).

Thank you, thank you one and all!
Nancy McGarvey

Sending Good News to Christians under Persecution

"...As difficult as these situations are for Christians under persecution, their pleas for help again and again include requests for more Scriptures. The Bible is at the heart of their faith, it defines who they are, and it is encouragement beyond all else. It is no accident that Rahman, in an Afghan television interview held up his Arabic Bible as a cornerstone symbol of his faith. As he said, "I believe in Christianity. I believe in the Holy Spirit. I am a Christian." Will you take a minute right now to pray for Abdul Rahman and the millions like him who are suffering in Jesus' name?..."

To donate, please:
Call: 877-THEBIBLE (877-843-2425) or visit
<https://www.877thebible.com/donation/contribute.php?source=W060007G>

"...A Bible costs, on average, \$4 for printing, binding and distribution in languages spoken and read in countries where persecution is most intense. That means that for just \$100 you can give a Bible to 25 Christians who are fighting the good fight of faith. \$24 will provide Bibles to 6 people; \$60 puts Bibles in the hands of 15 more..."

Christmas Crafters

The Christmas Crafters began in a small way last year as a chance to add another dimension to the Christmas Treasures Tables. A small group of women with some help from behind-the-scenes men are creating new Christmas and winter crafts to be sold during Advent to raise money for outreach. We try to meet once a month on the third Saturday from 10:00 AM until noon. We are creating a variety of angels and snowmen this year with one or two Santas thrown in for variety. If you are interested in joining our group contact Cheryl Bayard at 215-257-8585. We have fun socializing and all levels of ability are welcome. We will find something for you to do that you will enjoy. We do painting, gluing, cutting, and soon we will be doing some sewing. Our behind-the-scenes men cut wooden objects for us to paint and decorate. Come prepared to get messy.

Young People's Lenten Art Projects

Two years ago, we began a project with the young people of the church during the Wednesday evening Lenten study. We are designing and painting 12 events in the life of Christ through a multicultural approach. Fr. Canan comes up with three ideas each year. On the first session, the students and I discuss the events and what happened, what it might look like and then we select a country or continent to represent that event. The young people do drawings and give suggestions. I then translate their drawings and some of my own into a drawing for the painting. On the second session, we paint the background and do more detailed drawings usually of the people that will appear in the painting. The young people continue to paint and I add the final detail. We try to have a cross in each picture. Some of the crosses are very obvious and some are more hidden. So far, we have painted the Nativity from Russia, Jesus in the Temple at 12 from the USA in modern times, Jesus being baptized from Egypt, Jesus and the little children from the far North as Eskimos, the Last Supper from Mexico, the Crucifixion from Japan, the Resurrection from Europe, and the Ascension from India. Next year, we will finish the project and then we will hang all the pictures.

Mission Possible 2006: Man, West Virginia

25 senior high students and 7 adults from Trinity Church, St. Thomas, Whitemarsh; St. Matthew's, Maple Glen; Christ Church Pottstown; and Emmanuel Quakertown will be working with the McDowell Mission in McDowell County is southwest West Virginia one of the poorest counties in the USA.

We will be doing housing rehabilitation projects and leading Vacation Bible School for the local children.

We leave early Sunday morning June 25 and return Saturday June 30.

Summer Service Camp 2006

Who: Students entering grades 6 through 9.

What: Each day participants will serve God's people through a different ministry in Chester, PA. Each afternoon participants will engage in a different activity or hear a different speaker helping them to appreciate life in Chester.

When: Sunday August 13 through Friday August 18.

Where: We will be headquartered at Chester Eastside Ministries.

Why: Because Jesus said "In EVERYTHING, do to others as you have them do to you for this is the law and the prophets." Matthew 7:12

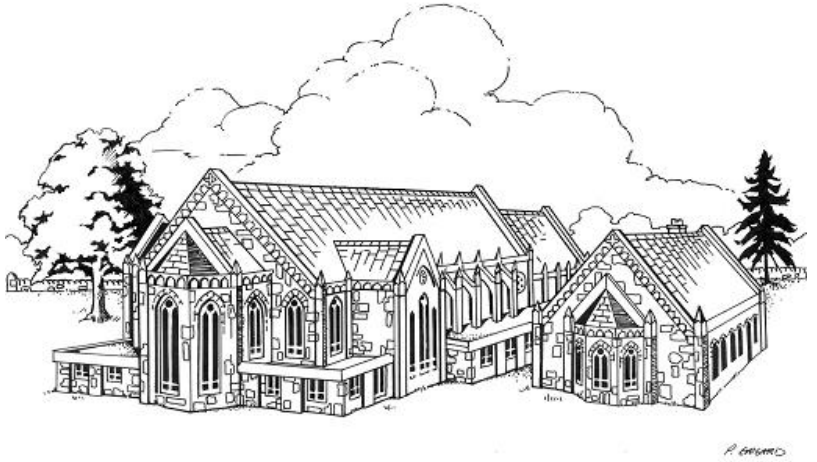
How much: \$110 per student.

Applications: Available on the Trinity web page or in the Narthex.

What Was and Isn't

By John Dziel

Recently, members of the property committee, Fr. Dave, and myself met with the original architect from the construction of Trinity. Needless to say, we were bubbling over with questions about all the property issues we have now, and were hoping he could shed some light on them. The light did shine! What unfolded was a long story of blunders, subcontractor shortcuts, insurance funding issues and church decisions during the project that led us to where we are now. Yes, there were lawsuits, arbitrations, and settlements all associated with this, and the money was received and spent, but this is not the focus of this article.



Swing Low Sweet Trinity! Members of the property committee have often wondered why our church isn't a little higher. Surely this would have helped with the groundwater issue. Well, as it turns out, the architect had specified the church to be twelve inches higher in elevation than it is! It seems that due to a civil engineering survey mistake during construction, Trinity ended up one foot deeper in the ground than it was supposed to be, and thus lower than the ground that surrounds it! The architect approved of Dave Manchester's ground berm (installed last year) as a good work around for some of these issues, as it is impossible to lift the church up at this point. (Dave is a volunteer member of our property committee.)

Water Water Everywhere! We all know about the roof leaks. Some are caused by the fact that flashing needs to be re-calked every few years as part of a maintenance campaign. However, the largest leaks are caused by shortcuts made by the subcontractor that put in our gutter system! Original specifications called for larger drains that were bonded (water tight) to the drain pipe system. The drains ended up undersized, and there is a gap between the drains and the pipes! During heavy rains, the water literally splashes up over the pipe and into the walls. That's not all! The architect's plans also called for flashing to extend from the gutter up to the capstones on the walls to provide extra capacity during extreme times such as heavy rains, snow damming, or leaf obstruction. The flashing was omitted. Basically, the gutters can fill up and overflow like a bath tub, and pour down inside the church! Again, property had been aware of the issue, and Dave Manchester had designed a new drain modification. The architect looked over Dave's drawings and agreed it was a suitable work around to help increase capacity. The drains would have to be installed at 13 locations in the parish hall, and an undetermined number of locations in the church. There is no practical way of installing the missing flashing without partial demolition of the walls as the capstones are bonded to the top.

Blow The Man Down! Among the more interesting idiosyncrasies of the church is the fact that the front doors blow open with explosive force on windy days. This time, you can blame our old insurance company! (We changed companies.) As part of the original design, there was supposed to be a bell tower between our main doors and the office wing. Besides being a handy place to hang bells, this tower was to serve several purposes. It was to serve as the main entrance to the church and act as an environmental buffer, keeping wind, water, salt, and other nasties out of the Narthex. It also was to serve as a natural cooling tower. The open ceiling design would help reinforce the airflow which was supposed to flow through the church and up the tower, reducing the need to operate our 40 horse power air conditioning system in the spring, summer, and fall. This lack of flow is also why our church seems stuffy in the spring and fall. The bell tower would also serve to connect the office wing to the church itself. The bell tower was cut in the middle of the construction process due to lack of funding. This came so late in the process that the foundations and wall sub structures had already been built. The tower simply ended at ground level.

Guild Hall ??? Yep! That was in the plans as well. Ironic, as we are now so tight on space that we feel like bees trapped in a glass jar. The hall was to be on the ground that is located between the Sexton's house and the Narthex. All structural ties were already in place, including a pass-through from the kitchen that is now covered in stone. In place of a guild hall, we now have a large set of unused doors from the narthex to nowhere.

I could go on and on about this meeting, but I didn't want to turn the Chimes into a novel. Suffice to say that there were many other issues which we gained insight into. Above all, we now have critical information that will allow us to better plan for the future of the church, and establish new maintenance programs.



Letter from the Part-time Youth Minister, Kelly Rupprecht

Recently returning from Rhode Island to the Philadelphia area has been a blessing for my family. My husband Ryan and I both attended WHS and were married at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in 2002 and thus are quite familiar with the area. We now have a wonderful, eighteen month old son, Reese.

I attended Elmira College in New York and studied Speech Therapy and Special Education. My secular career has included teaching, speech and language therapy, coordination of special education programming and the supervision and support of special education teachers. I have focused primarily working with adolescents with emotional, behavioral and psychiatric disorders.

I was baptized and raised as an Episcopalian and love the Episcopal Church. My husband and I have both been involved in Christian Youth Programs such as Young Life, Inter- Varsity Christian Fellowship and College Christian Fellowship. Although I was raised Episcopalian, I am associated with various denominations. I hope to draw from all my experiences within my own faith journey to create something that is meaningful and original for our youth. I believe that Youth Ministry should be practiced in the spirit of Accompaniment- "a mutually transforming relationship between an adult and a younger person who is helped to make the passage through adolescence into spiritual maturity, "to the measure of the full stature of Christ (Ephesians 4:13)." Adults might accompany directly at points and make room for others to safely accompany as well."

What led me to Youth Ministry are a great combination of things...basically God calling me over and over until I finally listened! Dave Canan was my Youth Minister as an adolescent and I realize that my teenage years would have been drastically different if not for the interaction at youth group and the ability to openly question my faith without repercussion. I have struggled with my faith journey but realize my struggle is a true testament to God's power and love. My goals for the youth group are to :

- Share the love of Christ with youth in a non-threatening environment
- Share the work and presence of God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives,
- Share the power of the Holy Spirit to inspire,
- Share the value of Christian friendship and community,
- Share the importance of sharing God's love by helping others, and
- Share the Christian faith journey as an adventure

I am excited to get to know all of you!

God Bless, Kelly Rupprecht

**The Daughters of the King Anam Cara Chapter of Trinity Church ~ Ambler
Invites All Women to Join them for their
2nd Annual Women's Retreat**

Theme: Prayer

Retreat Leaders: Sr. Margo & Fr. David Canan

Dates: Oct. 13 – 15, 2006

Place: St. Marguerite's Retreat House, Menham, NJ

Cost: ~ \$120.00

Deposit of \$25.00 is due by June 1st with Balance due by September 10th (No refunds after September 1st)

(Cost includes Single Room and all meals ~ beginning with dinner on Friday thru Lunch on Sunday)

Space is limited to 26 participants. For more information call Carol Szwajkos (215) 641-0307 or Anne Canan (215) 646-5350

Please Sign-up on Sheet on Bulletin Board in the narthex.

All checks should be made payable to Trinity Church. Mail to: DOK ~ Retreat c/o Trinity Church, 708 South Bethlehem Pike

KIDS SWAP

Kids Swap was founded by God's grace and Nona Franson over ten years ago at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Holliston, MA. St. Michael's Church, then, was a much smaller version of Trinity Ambler filled with a good deal of busy working families with children. The name we choose, KIDS SWAP, was meant to get their attention.

The purpose was to help make the lives of those parents and guardians of our children's lives a bit easier in the area of acquiring clothing and related kids' baby equipment.

As my own three children and three grandchildren have demonstrated, they grow like weeds and at the most inconvenient times. They also have the habit of accidents that ruin your best plans for that extra outfit! In today's world of jobs consuming up to ten hours a day, cars needing repair, sports events for children needing carpooling and attendance, medical visits one hardly has time to shop (hopefully, at the sales) for the next size before both the wrists and ankles are hanging out. Our Holly at age 16 months has already gone through seven sizes! If it wasn't for an army of relatives shopping, her sister's out grown clothing and KIDS SWAP, her parents would be frantic. Yes, our grandchildren have greatly benefited from KIDS SWAP as I hope you will also.

Here's how it works: You speak to Nona Franson (215-855-0289) or the Trinity Office for what items you need. Delivery and pick-up are made by Paul and Nona Franson. KIDS SWAP is also looking for "inventory." Any item in good condition that can be used again is perfect. Donation forms to be used in filing your Federal Income tax are available for large gifts, like a crib or much clothing. When you are finished with the items, if they are usable, you give them back. Simple! However, it is only simple if **YOU** will both receive and give.



Getting to Know Trinity

Are you fairly new at Trinity or been around for awhile but on the margins? The Baptismal Ministry Team will be offering a one hour session on Saturday June 17 at 7 p.m. to give you an opportunity to learn about our congregation. A bit about our history, a chance to meet other people new to Trinity, information about our ministries, how we operate as a parish, and *your* questions will fill our time together. Food is an important part of our parish life together – there will be desert and beverages. We will repeat this on Sunday Oct 22 following the 10 a.m. service

Affiliating with the Episcopal Church

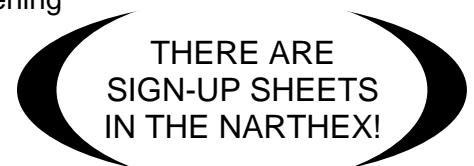
We have several groups of people who are preparing to mark their lifelong journey in faith. Our young people began the process we have traditionally called Confirmation back in the Fall when they participated in a service of *Welcoming Baptized Persons to a Journey of Affirmation*. Their sponsors pledged to pray for them and reminded them that they were marked as Christ's own at Baptism.

Since then they have met most weeks participating in a variety of worship experiences offered in the Book of Common Prayer. Fr. Dave created a special game of Jeopardy to test their knowledge of the Baptismal service. They have reflected on Gospel passages. The first weekend in May they visited Manhattan where they experienced a number of sacramental rites while having a good time seeing some of the cities attractions.

ADULTS and YOUTH – Episcopal Church Series

Beginning in June there will be a menu of topics that will be offered both on Sundays following worship and if interest is shown they will also be offered on a weeknight. Our young people as well as adults who wish to affiliate with the Episcopal Church are invited to participate.

1. The Book of Common Prayer	Sunday June 11	Thurs. Evening June 15
2. The Tudors and the Church The Elizabethan Compromise	July 9	July 13
3. How the Episcopal Church governs	July 23	July 27
4. How we use the Bible	Aug 13	Aug 17



The Sin of Racism: A Call to Covenant

A Pastoral Letter from the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church

March 2006

We, the bishops of the Episcopal Church, acknowledged the painful reality of the consequences of racism in the 1994 pastoral letter "the Sin of Racism." In that letter, we stated "the essence of racism is prejudice coupled with power. It is rooted in the sin of pride and exclusivity which assumes 'that I and my kind are superior to others and therefore deserve special privileges.'" We issue this new pastoral on the pervasive sin that continues to plague our common life in the church and in our culture. We acknowledge our participation in this sin and we lament its corrosive effects on our lives. We repent of this sin, and ask God's grace and forgiveness.

When Jesus entered the synagogue in his first public act of ministry (Luke 4), he read from the prophet Isaiah. The vision proclaimed is known as the desire of God, the peaceable kingdom, a society of justice and shalom, or the city set on a hill. It is an icon of what God intends for all creation – that human beings live in justice and peace with one another, that the poor are fed and housed and clothed, the ill are healed, prisoners set free, and that the whole created order is restored to right relationship. That vision is our goal and vocation as Christians.

The fundamental truth undergirding this vision is that all are made in the image of God. It is in our diversity that we discover the fullness of that image. If we judge one class or race or gender better than another, we violate that desire and intent of God. And when our social and cultural systems exacerbate or codify such judgments, we do violence to that which God has made. Racism is a radical affront to the good gift of God, both in the creation described in Genesis, and in the reality of the Incarnation. Jesus came among us to bring an end to that which divides us, as Paul so clearly identifies in Galatians 3:28, "in Christ there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female." Whenever individual or community behaviors work against God's vision, we have promised to respond in ways that will serve to heal: "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? I will with God's help (BCP p 305)." God has created us with skins of many colors, God has created us in thousands of tribes and languages, and none is adjudged more godly than another. It is our behavior that gives evidence of godliness, not the color of our skin.

The world has witnessed the evil of institutionalized racism and classism in the United States in the aftermath of the hurricanes of 2005. The poor and persons of color were often served last -- or not at all -- while wealthy and privileged residents had greater resources to escape the immediate danger of the hurricanes and begin the process of rebuilding. We are all shamed by the sin of racism in the reality of inequity in housing, employment, educational and healthcare opportunities, and the disaster response.

This House of Bishops, meeting in Hendersonville, North Carolina on 21 March 2006, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, commit ourselves as bishops to discern and confess our own prejudice and complicity in the pervasive sin of racism, to confront it, and make amends for it in intentional ways every time we gather as a House. We ask the Holy Spirit to empower the House to fully live into this covenant, and we invite the members of this Church to covenant with us, in the following actions personally, corporately, and globally. With God's help, we will:

- renew our commitment to the 1994 pastoral letter, "The Sin of Racism"; take responsibility to expose, dismantle and heal those situations of injustice based on racism;
 - seek forgiveness for our lack of charity and consciousness in recognizing those situations which degrade the image of God in our neighbors;
 - make amends for our undeserved position and benefit as a result of unjust situations both now and in the past;
 - empower all members of God's human family, that they may live into the fullness of what God intends;
 - encourage the larger church to continue and expand its work of education, spiritual formation, and anti-racism training, that all might discover the riches of God's diverse creation, especially in those who differ from us;
 - advocate for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, our respective dioceses, the parishes which comprise them, and our governments, as well as our own households, that God's desire may become increasingly evident for all of humanity;
 - recruit and empower people of all races and ethnic origins as leaders in our church, and as members of all boards, agencies, commissions, and committees;
 - dedicate equitable resources for all races and national origins in the funding of theological education for all ministries, lay and ordained;
 - advocate for continued response to the sinful legacy of slavery; expose situations of environmental racism and classism which poison and threaten the poorest among us, and seek justice for those communities; and
 - advocate for compassionate care of the stranger in our midst, and demand just immigration policies.
- Having entered into covenant with each other to root out the sin of racism in very specific personal and corporate ways, we, the bishops of the Episcopal Church, invite all members of our Church to join us in this mission of justice, reconciliation, and unity. This is an expression of our commitment to the fundamental covenant each of us entered into at the moment of our baptism.

May God give us the will to do this reconciling work, and the power and grace to accomplish it.

We ask that this pastoral letter be read in all churches as soon as possible.

WORSHIP AT TRINITY

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. on Sundays

9:00 a.m. on Wednesdays

7:00 p.m. on Thursday

*See calendar inside for
additional service times*

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2005/2006 VESTRY

Sue Adair, Worship

Tim Bauder, Communications

Cheryl Bayard, Secretary/Spiritual Formation

Robin Chambers-Dixon, Human Resources

Laura Gergen, Property

Addie Johnson, Pastoral Care

Jill Leiby, Parish Life/Hospitality

Nancy McGarvey, Stewardship

Ed Mahler, Mission & Outreach

Piers Prater, Property

Dennis Reid, Accounting Warden/Finance Committee

Jane Saunders, Rector's Warden

Milestones

Transfer In:

Tom vanOosterom on March 28, 2006 from
Edgumbe Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN.

Bill Oliveira on May 1, 2006 from
Church of St. Jude & the Nativity, Lafayette Hill, PA

Patricia Ann Lipps on May 16, 2006 from
Trinity Episcopal, Buckingham, PA

Tania Talman on May 15, 2006 from
Church of the Holy Family, Chapel Hill, NC

Jeff Leister & Lauren Leister on May 9, 2006 from
St. Thomas' Church, Whitmarsh

Baptism:

Keith Mario Brown baptized on April 16, 2006

Come as You Are Worship on Sunday Evenings in the Fall

Come as your are: whether you have been raking leaves,
shopping at the mall, paying the bills, or returning from a
weekend trip or a soccer game.

Come on Sunday evenings at 5 p.m. beginning September
17.

Come for an informal service.

Come for a service where the sermons and the prayers will
be participatory.

Come for a gathering where the music will be simple.

Come when you can't make it for the morning services.

Come and bring a friend.