

Trinity Tidings

November/December 2012

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From Fr. John...

The academic year has opened with a surge of activity, especially in the process of transition from Bishop Gordon to Bishop-elect Doug Fisher, in the schools of course, and this year, in the national election cycle. In economic terms, we do see improvements but they are frustratingly slow. It is to be welcomed, surely, that the soldiers are returning home!

In the Parish, we are delighted to see a good solid start to the Sunday school year, synchronizing with St. John's Millville on this and other matters. The acolytes are active, with the new addition of Jessica Brown giving us a full complement of acolytes on Sunday October 14. Also, the introduction of gas heat is working well (mostly), and saving money.

We are still looking for an organization to utilize the Education wing, so please give this prayer and mention it to suitable organizations.

So we have a lot to be grateful for by way of steady forward movement. The more we can take and share our faith and trust in Christ into our families and personal relationships, the stronger that growth will become.

With love and prayer for you
Fr. John Stubbs

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If you are receiving this by mail, would you please give us permission to email it to you -- and give us your email address.

Ordination and Consecration of Our New Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Doug Fisher will be ordained and consecrated as the Ninth Bishop of Western Massachusetts on Saturday, December 1, at 11:00 a.m. at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.

The Trinity Prayer

By The Rev. Keith Mason

Holy, Heavenly Father,
Creator of all that exists,
Fill our hearts with divine love,
And human joy.
God Almighty, grant us grace and mercy in our daily lives.
Give us Christian courage,
With your inner peace.

Lord Jesus Christ,
We know you as Saviour and Lord.
Make yourself known ever more clearly,
To our dim and faltering eyes.
Through the heavenly power of your love,
Dear Jesus, make your Real Presence
A living reality in your Church.

Blessed Holy Spirit,
Inspire and guide us as Christians.
Spirit of God Almighty,
Fill our empty spaces with your peace.
Grant that we might become the saints
That you lovingly call us to be,
So that you, O God,
Might speak to others through us.
Amen.

Invite a Friend to Church

Father John has mentioned, several times recently, how important it is to invite a friend, neighbor, coworker, family member, and so on, to church. You may feel awkward or be afraid you will scare them away. Fear not; what's the worst that can happen? So what if they say, "No."

Another way to whet their appetite is to talk about the fun things your church community does—like the Pillsbury Bakeoff, for instance. The more excited you are about what church means to you and your children, the greater the chance they may just want to check it out. A really good time to invite someone to church is on a special day like Christmas Eve or Easter. This is exactly how I came to the Episcopal Church.

I grew up Roman Catholic and I loved church. For reasons I won't go into here, my family stopped going to church. When I had my children, I wanted to go back to church, but I did not want to go back to the Roman church. I was very young and didn't know what to do.

The boys and I lived in a tight knit neighborhood with lots of kids. My next door neighbor and I spent a lot of time together when our kids were growing up. She had started going to a church and loved it. She even started helping the church secretary put together bulletins. She would bring them home, and I would help her fold. Her husband, who had absolutely refused to go to church, started going with her.

One Ash Wednesday, they invited me to go to church with them. I said, "Okay" and off we went. I loved the service because it was so close to the Catholic service I remembered. It was a cathartic moment. After church, we attended a Bible study—I didn't have a choice because I had ridden with them to church! The Rector told us to open our Bible to a certain chapter in the Gospel of John. I sat there looking around at everyone turning right to the spot and I was just flipping through the pages, totally lost until my friend helped me.

I've been an Episcopalian ever since. My children were raised as Episcopalians. The church, the people of the church, quickly became the loving family I did not have growing up. That was thirty years ago. And this happened because my neighbor invited me to church. I am forever grateful that God nudged her and she listened, even though she may have been nervous.

You never know what space someone may be in spiritually. They may just be searching for something and your invitation could be exactly what they need. Invite someone to come to church with you. It just might change or save their life as it did mine.

Peace and blessings!

Julie

Vestry News

Submitted by Bev Drover

1 The painting etc. was completed by the community service project sponsored by the sheriff's department. Letters were sent in thanks for all the good work.

2 Gas conversion near completion. Additional work needs to be done at a cost of \$600 - 800. Approved to have it done at no more than \$800.00.

3 Chimney was cleaned.

4 Chimney needs to be relined in future at a cost of approx. \$5,500.00

5 Leak in boiler room needs to be attended to.

Voted to have property committee make decision.

6 Branches that were hanging over the roof were cut by DPW

What we do to help...

Each month, Trinity donates funds to various organizations in need of assistance. For the month of November we will be contributing to the good works of Heifer International.

Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the Earth.

Heifer International is a charity that offers families a hand-up, not just a hand out. They inspire municipalities to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity. They bring communities together and link them with local markets to help them with gaining sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a long history of poverty.

The animals they give don't just provide a reliable source of food, but also a source of income. Extra agricultural products, such as milk from cows or goats, honey from bees or eggs from chickens can be both shared within the community and sold at market. This new income, as well as the training their partners receive, allows them to clothe their families, provide them with medical care and send their children to school.

This is not just one family, but many! It brings opportunities for building schools, creating agricultural co-ops, and forming community savings and loan groups to assist local entrepreneurs. Newly formed women's groups help increase the full potential of the communities, as neighbors who may have never interacted now come together to help the community to prosper.

Dates to Remember:

November

- Saturday, Nov 3 Billsbury Bake Off
- Saturday, Nov 3 Collection of Thanksgiving Baskets
- Tuesday, Nov 13 Vestry at 7:00pm

December

- Sunday, Dec 16 Children's Pageant during the 10:30am service
- Monday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm
- Tuesday, Dec 25 Christmas Day Service (times to be announced)

Please join us for Adult Bible Study, Wednesdays at 10am!

Those interested may either come by the parish offices or you may also phone in from the comforts of your own home – here's what you need to do: Dial 1-213-406-8989. Then enter the PIN code 58108#. Please announce yourself so that others know you are on the line and you may either join in the discussion or just simply listen. Our discussions are very inspirational and thoughtful. We welcome anyone who may be interested in participating.

The Bible study passages are listed below for each week (taken from Forward Day by Day for the Sunday next).

On Wednesday...

- Nov 7 -- Luke 14:1-11
- Nov 13 -- Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18,) 19-25
- Nov 21 -- Revelation 1:4b-8
- Nov 28 -- 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- Dec 5 -- Luke 3:1-6
- Dec 12 -- Philippians 4:4-7
- Dec 19 -- Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

RENEWAL OF MINISTRY

Our service of renewal of ministry on September 20 was a most heartening and joyous event. There was a deep sense of adopting a new direction, hope, and determination in our path into the future.

One new ministry is our new Tidings editor Stephanie Brown. I am and we are all most grateful for this ministry Stephanie is taking up. As asked by her, I may say there are various aspects of my own history which I bring to our shared ministry at Trinity. The period I came to my own faith in Christ (1969) and worked with youth in the church (1970-80). Seminary at General and Union (New York, 1980-84) has many points of relevance, including through parish bible study and preaching, and pastoral visiting. My time at the Church of the Heavenly Rest Fifth Ave NYC (ending in 1991) had various points of relevance for now, including work with Cursillo.

In Cape Town and then as Dean of the Cathedral in Grahamstown (up to 2006) I had a lot to do with supervising congregations and administration. And now the Bishop has just asked me to use my doctoral studies in the Board of Examining chaplains. Some of our visitors at the above service came from my time in Staten Island (ending in 2010). So there you have it in a nutshell!





What the children are learning about in Sunday School...

The Book of Job

The Bible says, "In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil". Job was a wealthy man who was blessed with a large family and many animals. He was revered by all who knew him as being a good and loyal man who loved God.

One day, Satan appeared before God in heaven. God boasted to Satan about Job's goodness, but Satan argued that Job was only good because God had blessed him with a prosperous life. Satan argued that if Job was challenged, and his blessings removed, he would no longer love God as he did. God disagreed and allowed Satan to punish Job, knowing that Job's faith would still be strong. Satan was told to do whatever he wanted to Job or his family, but he was not to kill Job.

Job then suddenly received messages bearing terrible news. His livestock, servants and ten children had been attacked and had all been killed. Struck with grief, Job tore his clothes and shaved his head in mourning, but he never cursed God. Satan appeared in heaven again, and God granted him another chance to test Job. This time, Job was stricken with painful, horrible skin sores. Job's wife told him to curse God and give up and die. Job told her that would be foolish, and although he had lost everything and was in great pain, he would not curse God. Satan had failed.

Three of Job's friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar went to visit with Job and attempted to comfort him. Job struggled with the question of why God had bestowed this terrible fate upon him. His three friends believed that Job must have sinned against God, somehow, and this was his punishment. During their conversation, Job insisted that he had not sinned and argued with his friends that he is a good man as he called out to God. He questioned why God had let these terrible things happen to him, yet men who were truly evil had prospered. He wanted to confront God to complain, but was physically unable to find him.

Finally, God spoke to the men, and demanded Job to be brave. God showed Job how little he knew about creation and the power God alone has. God became angry with Job's friends for thinking Job was not a good man. Despite all that they had said, Job still prayed for them and asked God for their forgiveness. God answered his prayer, because despite all that Job had been tested with, he had not cursed God. He also returned to Job his health, more land than before, new children and an extremely long life.



Actual 2012 September Year to Date Financial Performance
(From Senior Churchwarden Tom Stone)

Operating income...\$70,248
Operating expenses...\$76,243
=====

Variance... <\$5,995>

Note: As referenced in my pledge campaign letter, with our continued faithful financial support coupled with the exciting promise of significant reductions in heating costs with our recent oil-to-gas conversion, it is my belief and prayer Trinity will experience a balanced budget in 2013.

Sunday Attendance Figures
(from the Parish Register)

For the year 2010

On Sep 2 total 1414

On Oct 7 total 1770

Average Sunday 43

For the year 2011

On Sep 2 total 1701

On Oct 7 total 2121

Average Sunday 52

For the year 2012

On Sep 2 total 1728

On Oct 7 total 1975

Average Sunday 48

We're Celebrating!

November Birthdays

David Brown 11-4

Jessica Slavin 11-10

Olivia Burrill 11-12

Andrew Buma 11-20

Susan Stone 11-29

December Birthdays

Katie Stark 12-4

Ellen Lavalley 12-13

Barbara Stubbs 12-13

Jessica Brown 12-14

Nancy Piper 12-17

Jonathan Deery 12-19

Greg Palmer 12-22

Ellen Laderman 12-28

Worcester County Sheriff's Department Inmate Community Service Program helps Trinity Episcopal Church with large painting job

During a two-week stretch of September and October, the Inmate Community Service Program of the Worcester County Sheriff's Department assisted Trinity Episcopal Church in several large painting projects. Specifically, the inmates painted the entire exterior of the education building. In addition, they painted interior areas of the church hallway and undercroft. The program, administered by Worcester County Sheriff Lou Evangelidis, was well received by the vestry. Lieut. Steve Hynes, the officer in charge of the program, was instrumental in pulling this project together. Supervising officer Mike Mastrorio was on site daily with a work crew consisting of 4 to 5 inmates. Both the officers and the inmates comported themselves with great professionalism in assisting the church with these painting projects. We look forward to working with this program again in the not-too-distant future. Special thanks go to the following parishioners who assisted by providing the inmates with lunch and/or on-site supervision during the completion of the work project: Dave Daubney, Barbara Stubbs, Katie Stark, Pam Burrill, Noah Burrill, Janet Oliver, Beverly Drover, Todd Buckley, Maria Buckley, Donna Kayarian-Chiacchia and Father John Stubbs. Special thanks to all those parishioners who also donated ladders and other materials to assist in the completion of the work.

Todd Buckley

MEMORIAL DONATION FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

In Memory of:

Birthday:

Anniversary:

In Thanksgiving for:

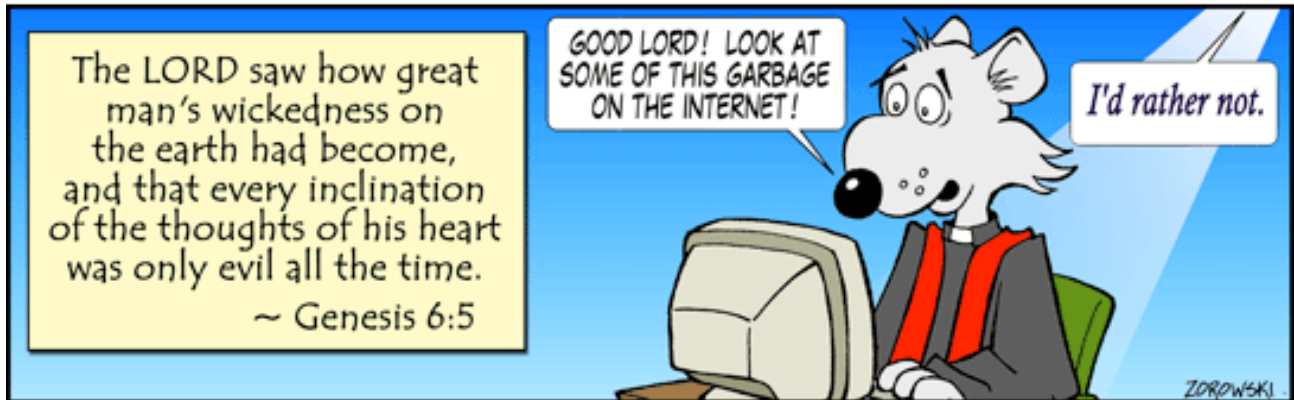
Given By:

Date of Sunday requested for the above:

[PLEASE MAKE CHECK OUT TO TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH]

Church Mice

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Trinity mission statement:
Love God
Love people
Through the Holy Spirit
Praying, Caring, and Teaching

