



# Parish Letter

TrinityLenox.org

Advent 2009

## Schedule

### Sunday Services

8 AM Holy Eucharist  
10: 15 AM Sung Holy  
Eucharist  
5 PM Evening Prayer

### Weekday Services

Mon thru Sat. 7 AM  
Morning Prayer

First Saturday, 8 AM  
Morning Prayer with  
breakfast following

### ADVENT

Sun., Dec. 20, 5 PM Service  
of Christmas Lessons & Car-  
ols

### CHRISTMAS

Dec. 24, 5 PM, "Midnight in  
Bethlehem", with Godly Play  
Singers, Children's Choir,  
Chancel Choir, Cantilena  
Chamber Choir

### Taizé Service

Second Sunday, 5 PM

### Choir Rehearsals

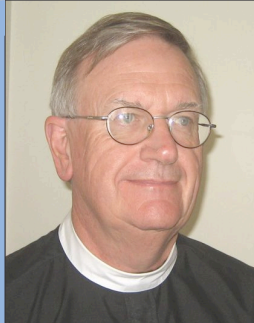
Children's Choir: Wed.,  
3 PM, check with Anita  
for other choir rehears-  
als

### **Sunday, Dec. 6, 3 PM**

Adult and Children's  
Choirs and Cantilena  
Chamber Choir present

**"The Worlds Greatest  
Carols of All Time"**

\$15 and children under  
12 free of charge.



## Notes from the Rector's Desk

Snow had not yet fallen but frost was on the pumpkin and in the ground. Trees and brush were bare and October Mountain's brilliant palette had dried to grey. It was my first Thanksgiving. We were to be guests in an American home to feast on turkey and, another first and still a favorite of mine, pumpkin pie. The steam radiators hissed and pumped enough heat to protect us from the cold that was and the cold that was to come. Everything was new and everything was different.

Back in the north of England, November was a grey month too, like so many of those post-war years, with winter smog so thick you couldn't see across the street and the buses crawled in convoy. The harvest had been in since early September and the church going few had already celebrated Harvest Home.

Thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth has its origin in pre-history and was certainly a part of English pagan religion. Christianized by the Church, it took on many of its twentieth century characteristics in 1843, when the Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Parishioners brought fruits and vegetables to decorate the churches and Victorian hymns, such as "We plough the fields and scatter", "Come ye thankful people, come" and "All things bright and beautiful" were written and have since been sung by generations in gratitude for God's bounty. Pagan or Christian, the focus of Harvest Thanksgiving is on Nature.

After six New England Thanksgivings, when winter had been almost upon us, and alienation, bordering on fear of Nature, ran as strong as appreciation for its fruits, I found myself in Texas for Thanksgiving. How odd to be warm without fire, to see the turkey carved by a short-sleeved host and to hear the buzz of insects and the songs of birds in the still green garden. How disassociated nature felt from the narrative of those New England Thanksgivings.

Another six years on I discovered that "Thanksgiving" was to be in October. The ladies of the Altar Guild were appealing for fruits and vegetables with which to decorate the urban church and the choir was rehearsing the old English Harvest Festival hymns. His Canadian cousins would have pleased the Reverend Mr. Hawker. This was Canadian Thanksgiving. Nature alone. Nature in the raw. Nature unadorned by narrative. There is no story behind this colonial harvest thanksgiving: no Pilgrims, no Indians, no corn, and no struggle to survive, to set God's light upon the Plymouth hill.

Fortunately, for I had come to love it, American Thanksgiving, as Canadians call it, was celebrated in our home, where I was the only one whose ancestors hadn't been at the very first Thanksgiving. The turkey and the stuffing, the cranberries and the potatoes, the gravy and the greens – all that Nature has to offer, were good but the remembrance of that first Thanksgiving, the Providential goodness of God's Grace, the narrative that gives meaning to Nature, was the salt without which life, as Jesus said, has no taste. Thanks be to God.

Please join with neighboring parishioners from the other Lenox Churches - St. Helena's, St. Vincent de Paul, the Methodist Church and St. Anne's - for a service of Thanksgiving at the Church on the Hill, at 7 p.m. this Wednesday. There will be a shuttle bus from the St. Anne's parking lot. Canon Booth will preach on immigration.

## AROUND THE PARISH: SILVER TEA, BEING STEWARDS

It's that time of year when we make our pledges of support for the following year. Asking for money and being asked for money — especially for reserved New Englanders — is sometimes difficult, no matter how many times we have been enjoined by a Bible reading that sharing and caring for others is central to our faith and vital to our spirit. So, we thank those that have committed themselves to alerting parishioners to opportunities to share their bounty — great or small as it might be — and to the many Trinity parishioners who are willing to respond so generously with their treasure, time and talent.

**John Veague** and his committee are leading an effort to alert parishioners to legacy giving — a gift that arrives after we have shuffled off this mortal coil, but an act of generosity and faith that can make a big difference in the lives of those who will be stewards of Trinity after we are gone. We think of those first Trinity wardens, John Whitlock and Jesse Bradlee at the first Vestry meeting in the spring of 1794, and wonder what they would think if they saw Trinity on a Sunday morning in Dec. 2009; or of the Rev. Roger Viets, a member of the Propagation of the (Anglican) Gospel in Foreign Parts who conducted our first recorded service in October 1763 and a few months later, having annoyed a Congregational minister in Great Barrington — things were often rocky and usually tense between Congregationalists and Anglicans in those days — was arrested “in the midst of my congregation, and in my robes,” and sent to the county jail where he languished for eight days. Clearly we have different concerns as Trinity begins its third century in Lenox.

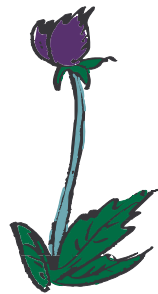
Those who have already made legacy gifts, as of press time (The Third Century Society which is open to all): Stephen Booth, Reggie Cooper, Susan Dana, George Darey, Inga Dean, James and Virginia Giddens, Heather Heim, Matthew Heim, Richard Jackson, Marnie Miller, Stephen Peters, Marian Rutledge, Gail Street, John Veague, Claudia Wells and Robert Wells.

### December 5th Silver Tea: Crafts, Bulbs, Blessing Cups, CDs, Stocking Stuffers, Cake and Tradition

The Silver Tea offers parishioners, friends and visitors a festive start to the Advent season., transforming the Parish House with well dressed tables, unique crafts, delicious sandwiches (especially the famous Blenkin cucumber sandwiches) and home baked sweets. This is a good opportunity to meet friends for some morning coffee, or lunch, or afternoon tea, and to do some Christmas shopping.

This year the Tea will benefit two groups: our old friend **Expanding Opportunities** that helps street children in Kenya and new beneficiary the **Blessing Cup Project**, started by the Rev. Hannah Anderson of St. Stephen's Pittsfield which helps women in the County who have fallen on hard times for a variety or reasons like lost jobs or abuse. The Project offers handmade blessing cups, blessing bags, altar cards, note cards and paintings. Also, note that there will be CDs of last year's “**Lessons and Carols for Christmas**” Service for sale.

Susan Dana tells us that the Tea will “will feature the popular **amaryllis bulb gift kits** again, with a new variety called Double Record



which has spectacular ruffled white and raspberry flowers. The popular variety called Picotee, which has white blossoms with a delicate red edge, will also be featured, as well as an assortment of bulbs which will produce red, white, pink or striped flowers. Each kit contains 1 large (30/32cm) bulb, a pot and planting medium as well as complete instructions. They make wonderful gifts, producing huge blossoms in early March, or sooner if the bulbs are planted now. Reserve your favorite colors now!” Susan adds that there are “**Paperwhite narcissus bulbs** in gift kits, planted in attractive containers or packaged in bags for you to plant, will be available too. All the bulbs come from the well known Connecticut company, John Scheepers Inc., and will produce spectacular flowers. The bulbs are much larger than cheaper ones you see in stores. Order now (call Susan Dana 637-0451 or spikeandsusan@roadrunner.com) and help support Trinity's outreach projects.”

### In December Trinity Sings!

- **Sunday, Dec. 6, 3 PM** our Adult and Children's Choirs will join the Cantilena Chamber Choir to present *The World's Greatest Carols of All Time As voted by the world's finest choirmasters (!)*.
- **On Sunday, Dec. 20, 5 PM** a service of Christmas Lessons and Carols. The Children's and Chancel Choirs will again join the Cantilena Chamber Choir.
- **Christmas Eve, 5 PM**, “Midnight in Bethlehem” will feature all of the above choirs and singers as well as the Godly Play Singers.

*Left: The Children's Choir.*

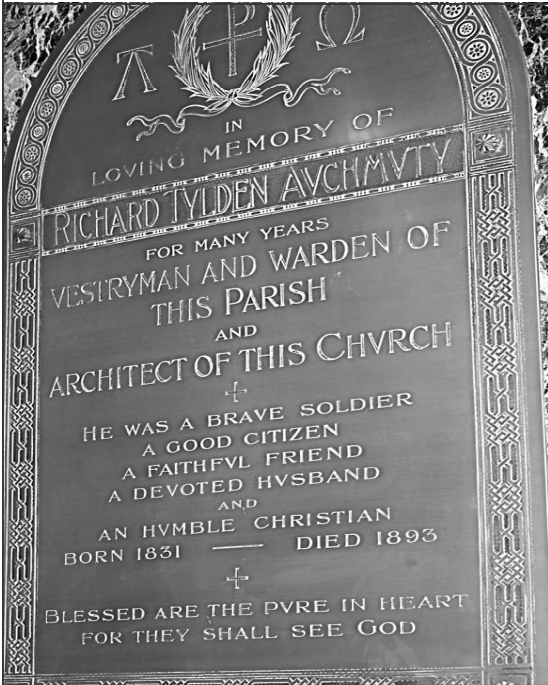
*Photos here and right: Claudia Wells*



## A Porch, a Vestibule, a Window: the new Trinity's design

The story of Trinity Church began three centuries ago in what was then essentially a frontier village. One of the biggest changes for the Parish was to go from the small white frame building on Church Street to the splendid stone building we have inherited.

John Veague has dug up a very interesting story that explains much of what we probably now take for granted. (John took the photo)



Our landmark church's bluestone walls and red slate roof seem to have been part of Lenox's landscape forever. But for 70 years -- from 1818 to 1888 -- Trinity Church was a small wooden building. The congregation outgrew the wooden church, and in 1882, Colonel Richard T. Auchmuty, the new Senior Warden, put forth a resolution to build a new Trinity Church. The legendary Charles McKim drew up four sets of plans for the building, but Col. Auchmuty (himself an architect) took particular issue with one feature of McKim's plans: they called for an entrance "directly into the body of the church." New England winters, Auchmuty said, required a side entrance through "a spacious porch leading into a roomy vestibule." The Colonel also wanted a "large rose window...to throw a mass of light over the heads of the congregation..." Although the church we worship in today retains many elements of McKim's design, a memorial plaque rightly calls Col. Auchmuty "the architect of this church." He revised the great McKim's plans, took the lead in fundraising, and supervised construction.

The original construction budget was \$25,000; the final bill was \$85,000. Many parishioners gave to make up the difference, including Col. and Mrs. Auchmuty. Thanks to their generosity and foresight, the church was entirely paid for and free of debt when it opened in 1888.

When Trinity Church was completed, the Pittsfield Sun wrote: *To Colonel Auchmuty great praise is due for the success of this church project. It has been a work of love in which he has spared nothing to secure artistic and enduring results, and we are sure the church will have a fullness of satisfaction in the end that will make his watchful supervision and always open hand and heart remembered by Trinity while stone stands upon stone.*

Indeed, Colonel Auchmuty's legacy lives on. We give thanks for his dedication and generosity to Trinity Church. *John Veague*

### Trinity Kids: a day @ Godly Play

As you no doubt know, the original Godly Play group has matured into the Godly Circle (see photo at right). Next comes JA2 which Heather Heim will fill you in on in a winter issue. The following are some remarks she shared with us recently about a Godly Play session:

*We had a wonderful group of little people in Godly Play today: Benjamin, Sam, Ava, Theo, Cecelia, Cecelia K., and Xandy. The story was the "ten best ways" and everyone was wonderfully attentive.....I focused on the part of the story that is about Love God, Love People, God Loves Us. I thought these were more concrete and simpler ideas than the entire 10 Commandments: "I wonder how can love sick people....how we can love poor people." The children had wonderful and caring ideas. (All of them) participated in the answers. When I wondered about what the most important commandment could be, many of them thought that "Love God" or "God Loves Us" was the most important. (Another child) thought the most important was "Don't break your marriage"...so I talked very briefly about trying to work hard on your marriage, work out differences. A few talked about "Don't Lie." Heather goes on to discuss other commandments, like the "don't covet" one — which rang a bell with the kids, one sharing a story of wanting another child's toys but working out a trade. Heather led them in discussing: what we can do if we break a commandment and it was great because all the children agreed that God will always give you a second chance, you just have to ask Him. Heather notes that the children worked well doing work-time, and again together when it was time to clean up the classroom, without much supervision from adults. "Impressive," says Heather.*



On Nov. 1st the Godly Circle children heard a story about the saints.

**From the Sunday program, Dec. 26, 1943:**

*While World War II raged, Trinity marked it's 150th anniversary. The day begins with a service of commemoration at 11 AM with special music and a sermon by the Right Rev. W. Appleton Lawrence, Bishop of Massachusetts. Then in the afternoon (from the day's bulletin):*

4:30 PM Evensong, Historical Address by Rector, and four tableaux will be presented by members of the parish, showing significant events in its history. They have been arranged by Mrs. Ralph B. Putney, Mrs. W. Hewitt Clifford, and Mrs. Florence Brooks.

The scenes will be:

1. 1793 first baptism in the parish: the children of Jared Bradley, one of the founders.
2. 1850: Fanny Kemble protesting against the quality of the church music
3. Christmas 1858: Debby Hewes Quincy decorates the old church on Church Street.
4. 1890: First wedding in the present church. Participants will wear original costumes of the period, portrayed and loaned by friends of the parish.

**TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**88 Walker Street,  
Lenox, MA 01240**

