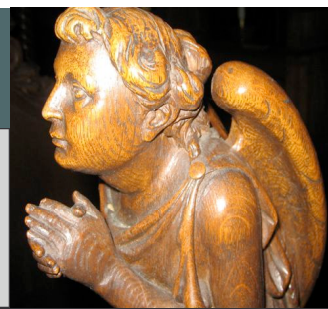


Trinity Parish Letter

TrinityLenox.org

Fall 2009



Sunday Services

8 AM Holy Eucharist
(breakfast follows)

10:15 AM Sung Holy
Eucharist
(coffee hour follows)

5 PM Evening Prayer

Taizé Prayer
Second Sunday, 5 PM

Weekday Services

Mon thru Sat., 7 AM
Morning Prayer

First Saturday, 8 PM,
Morning prayer
(breakfast following)

Choir Rehearsals

Children's Choir: Wed.
3PM. Check with Anita for
other choir rehearsals.

Third Thursday Lunches

Every month, at noon, Par-
ish House. All invited.

Book Group

Monday, Oct 19, 6 PM @
Bartles. *Freud's Last
Session*. RSVP to hosts.

Outreach Committee

Monday, Oct. 19, 2 PM

Vestry

Monday Nov. 2, 7 PM

**SILVER TEA **
Saturday Dec. 5

CONCERT

Sunday, Dec. 6, 3 PM
Children's Choir sings with
Cantilena Chamber choir

Notes from the Rector's Desk:

Baby Rose and Our Episcopalian Identity

We asked the Rector to let us print a recent sermon he delivered on the occasion of baptizing baby Rose, daughter of Keith and Anne Ward Dupuis. We had to make a few cuts due to lack of space.

“He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” *Mark 8:25*

These are stern and challenging words from Jesus to Peter, who he had just called “Satan,” and to the disciples. Yet we are just about to make a new disciple for Jesus in the baby Rose. What might it mean for her to be incorporated into such a religion — a religion as the philosopher Nietzsche put it, of “losers”?

Well, we are doing this in an Episcopalian Church and while Holy Baptism is the rite of entry into the One, Holy and Apostolic Church — it might be worth while to remind ourselves of our own identity before we seal Rose into our family.

Robin Williams, who is an Episcopalian, told an HBO audience one night what he thought the Top Ten Reason for Being an Episcopalian were, in increasing order of importance:

- #10 No snake handling.
- #9 You can believe in dinosaurs. Evolution is OK.
- #8 Male and female He created them; male and female we ordain them.
- #7 You don't have to check your brains at the door.
- #6 Pew aerobics
- #5 Church Year is color-coded.
- #4 Free wine on Sundays.
- #3 All the pageantry and none of the guilt.
- #2 You don't have to swim to get baptized. *And the number one reason is:*
- #1 No matter what you believe there's another Episcopalian who agrees with you.

Are these the reasons we are here this morning and week by week? Are these the things Anne and Keith hope for Rose? Well, in part, yes — that's why we are here and not in the other expressions of the church so humorously parodied by Williams. But in my experience there are more profound reasons why people worship God in His Episcopal Church and they include:

- #1 Tradition — in my blood and in my family
- #2 There is beauty and meaning in the orderly worship
- #3 Inspiring music.
- #4 Our children enjoy it.
- #5 It's the only place where we can find peace and order in our hectic lives.
- #6 We experience a sense of forgiveness and acceptance.
- #7 We are provided spiritual support.
- #8 We are challenged by deep questions of ultimate meaning.

I hope that these are some of the reasons you worship in the Episcopal Church. But does this make us disciples of Jesus? I think not. These as well as William's “Top 10” are means to discipleship, not discipleship itself. To rise to the challenge Jesus so impetuously throws to Peter and the disciples (above), requires that we be graced by God's Spirit and thus empowered for discipleship. These things we pray for Rose and for ourselves. *Canon Stephen Paul Booth*

AROUND THE PARISH

The canine members of parish families as well as a basketful of little Celli chicks came out for the annual **Blessing of the Animals** on St. Francis Day. When our Rector approached the chicks he asked “I don’t suppose they have names?” “Oh, yes they do!”



replied Liz and her granddaughter: Dogs (and chicks) were astonishingly well behaved, apparently sensing this was a serious moment, paid silent attention to their blessing. Thanks to **Andrea V.** for holding the ebullient Calypso Dean so a photo could be taken for the newsletter.

Nina Egmont celebrated her birthday at a Third Thursday lunch recently—in typical Nina fashion, she provided the (delicious) food.

Please note that the **Silver Tea** — a great old Trinity tradition — featuring an elegant tea, starring cucumber sandwiches and cakes as well as singular crafts and knitted garb, is scheduled for Saturday, December 5 in the Parish House.

This is a good opportunity to invite non-Trinity friends to enjoy a pre Christmas lunch or tea at one of the round red robed tables — everything very festively decorated, the Parish House quite transformed. The proceeds go to Outreach projects. **Heather Heim** has volunteered to chair the event again — as the saying goes, if you want something done ask the busiest person in the room.... Speaking of which, Sr. Warden **Reggie Cooper** has led the repair project — with thanks to the hard work of former Sr. Wardens **Marnie Miller** and **Susan Dana** — and spent countless hours with contractors, committees and other Trinity volunteers to achieve remarkable results. Check out the Rectory’s back porch, a project full of complications — one that has been hanging

around for 25 years, until the porch rotted through. Junior Warden **Steve Peters** has become an expert on stained glass windows as he arranges to save ours, to make them more visible and efficient, and confers with the experts. Treasurer **Eugenie Fawcett** gets to wrestle with the budget, with overseeing bank and investment accounts and payments, week after week, Sunday included.

The big parade down Lenox’s Main Street the other day, marking the 100 year anniversary of the Lenox Fire Department, reminds us of a plaque on our chapel’s west wall, dedicated to **Edward, Willina and Leslie Ventres** “*faithful members of this church.*”, who lost their lives in the horrendous **1909 Easter fire** that prompted the town to get serious about its Fire Department. That Easter Day, unseasonably cold for mid-April, had not yet dawned when a patrolman on North Street in Pittsfield noticed a distant red glow in the sky. A barn fire he guessed. It was not until some time later when a policeman and a deputy sheriff in Lenox, chatting in front of the town hall, heard an explosion and discovered a fire spreading rapidly in the Clifford Block — now the site of the Lenox Post office — right in the center of our compact little village. It must have been a chilling sight — in large part because Lenox had long neglected its small volunteer fire department which featured rotten hoses and inadequate nozzles. In fact the town was considered such a poor risk insurance companies charged high premiums which few could afford. In addition, there was dynamite, black powder and barrels of paint and turpentine stored in the Block, and 100 gallons of gas in underground tanks at the nearby Bull Block. There were tenants in the second and third floor of the Clifford Block. If the wind continued to blow as it was doing, a large swath of the town including the Library and Curtis Hotel, full of Easter visitors, and the Town Hall would be in the fire’s path.

Pittsfield was reluctant to mobilize, insisting it be “someone in authority” who summoned them since expenses had to be guaranteed and the city had been lately stiffed by Lanesboro. So before they got there other fire departments—many of those who came to celebrate the 100th—from surrounding towns were called in. The Ventres apartment was on the second floor. A Maine native, 15 years in Lenox, he worked for Berkshire Electric Co., was married to Willina Leslie of Nova Scotia, with a 12 year old daughter they called “Leslie”. Regular communicants at Trinity, Mrs. Ventres had mentioned to someone the morning before the fire that she would be taking early communion Easter morning. Other tenants managed to scramble out of the building moments before a huge explosion — someone half a mile away was blown out of bed and thought it was an earthquake — leveled the building. The Ventres did not make it out. They were found together and hence the plaque “*In death they were not divided.*” It was a big story, reported in newspapers all over the nation and people came on trolley cars, by carriage and auto, to see the ruins. Six residents had died. Nearly all the stores were gone. Many documents, plans for houses, birth certificates, stored at Clifford’s were gone. The old Main Street elms nearby had been so badly scorched they came down. The town was roundly criticized for being so unprepared and quickly, with some help from the summer folk, bought one of the earliest motorized fire engines, which has been kept and gets mobilized for parades. Lenox’s well organized, well equipped Fire Department, now headed by Clifford descendant **Dan Clifford**, is the legacy of Lenox’s tragic 1909 fire

(Photo at right of Rector’s father, Bill Booth, & the Rev. Ian Grant, by C. Wells)



Those that came before: A woman of indomitable strength

You may have noticed a white marble tablet next to the lectern. It bears the name of Debby Hewes Quincy, a member of this parish for many years until her death in 1872. As John Allen Gable says in his history of Trinity Church, *The Goodness That Doth Crown Our Days*, this included some very lean years in the 1840's and 1850's, when the congregation dwindled to fewer than thirty people and for several years, Trinity was without a Rector. The 1850 Report of the Board of Missions concluded: "This Parish, from one of the strongest in Berkshire County, has now become the weakest."

But thanks largely to the good works and generosity of Debby Hewes Quincy, Trinity Church endured. Mr. Gable quotes the Rev. Samuel P. Parker of Stockbridge, who helped Lenox during this era: "After many years of usefulness this venerable parish decayed, and threatened to become extinct. But the sturdy vitality of a few churchmen...continued to uphold it. Above all, the extraordinary efforts of one poor maiden lady saved it. Miss Quincy...kept the church alive and its edifice in repair, long after the death and removal of all its male communicants save one."

Though not a wealthy woman, Miss Quincy gave generously and was tireless in her efforts for Trinity Church, even at the age of 75, when she was largely responsible for the \$1,006.81 raised by the Ladies Fair (a considerable sum in 1864!). A newspaper of the period described, "The lovely grove of elms then standing on the place was always used for Episcopal picnics when Miss Debby occupied the little low-roofed house then standing there, with its quaint rooms, generous, old-fashioned chimney and clustering lilacs...A woman of indomitable strength of mind and body, dauntless in courage and perseverance, unflinching in kindness to those in sickness or trouble, she was for many years the main support of the Episcopal church here..."

As a Mr. Bartlett, author of *Half-Century Memories of Lenox*, wrote near the end of the nineteenth century: "...The faithful and devout Miss Quincy (we used to call her Aunt Debby) ... seemed to be the mainstay and chief standard bearer of the Episcopacy in Lenox. So much did this impress me that I think the church might be called "St. Deborah." It would certainly be no dishonor to it to bear that name." *John Veague*

(Local historian Nini Gilder believes Debby Quincy's house and the elms Trinity folks picnicked under (the church being at that time the modest white structure on Church Street, now a clothing store) was behind the town hall, near the present site of Rookwood Inn.)

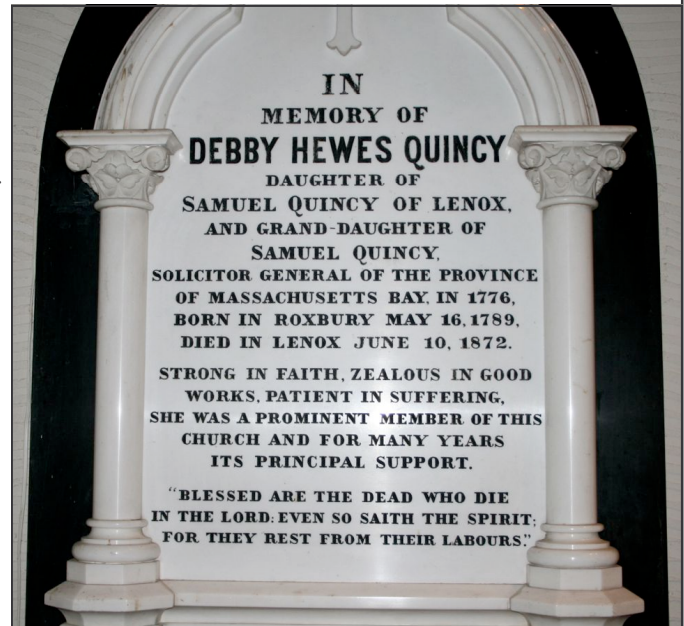


Photo by John Veague

St. Paul and Trinity Vestries Meet

The Rectors and Vestries from St. Paul's Stockbridge and Trinity Lenox met last month in the Parish House. Gillian and Stephen Booth hosted dinner at the Rectory first, which helped the two groups get to know each other informally.

The meeting was part of an initiative our Bishop has urged the parishes in the Dioceses to take, to see how best to serve, survive and thrive. There have been a number of meetings between parishes in the Berkshire corridor, as well as rapprochement between neighboring churches.

Our very cordial meeting with St. Paul's started with exchanging information on numbers (finances, pledges, parishioners), on programs for children and adults, outreach, challenges, relationships to our communities, and ended with exchanging ideas for future cooperation between the two parishes and with other South County parishes. The discussion was free wheeling and suggestions ranged from quite traditional to what one Vestry person described as "radical."

No actions were taken but it was agreed that there were several areas where the two churches might work together in the future, particularly in outreach and adult education.

Trinity Choirs Warming Up

Both children and adult choirs are raising their voices in song, reports Anita Stuart. "Great" is the way she describes the Children's Choir, that has been rehearsing faithfully on Wednesday afternoons, and will be singing in the church Oct. 25 for the first time. The littlest ones, in the Godly Play Choir, will also sing that Sunday. The Children's Choir is very excited about their date with the Cantilena Chamber Choir's December Concert on Dec. 6, 3 PM, at Trinity.

Anita is "trying a new approach" with the Chancel Choir this year. "Since so many folks have so many responsibilities, we've decided to make the Choir's commitment one Sunday each month." They will be singing Sunday, Oct. 18, Nov. 1, and Dec. 20. There are seven men with "wonderful singing voices, who read music well and are also the most handsome group in all of Christendom" and who will sing a four part men's anthem for the Nov. 15 Sunday 10:15 service.

(sorry Anita, but we just had to quote you!)

Outreach Committee

Under the leadership of Chair Gail Street and with a vigorous committee that meets once a month, Trinity Outreach is making the most of its resources and the generosity of the Parish.

Some of the recent grants include:

- A check for \$1,500, earmarked “Rev’d Kezlon Semanda—Training.” Parishioners met Kezlon, a former student of Stephen’s in Uganda, last summer when he was visiting the Booths. Kezlon brought many needs to the attention of the Parish and there was considerable debate on how Trinity could be of help. Stephen suggested that Kezlon’s work as training officer for the Diocese of Central Buganda was noteworthy so funds were directed to that area.
- Backpacks (27) were bought for \$500 for area returning-to-school kids, under auspices of Western Mass Labor Action.
- A Lenox family with health conditions that restrict their diet was sent a \$200 Clearwater (Lenox health food store) certificate.
- A \$1,000 grant to the Elizabeth Freeman Center in Pittsfield to be matched by Legacy Bank. Domestic violence has increased in recent months, which often happens when hard economic times stress families.

For several months the committee has had ongoing discussions about the immigrant population of the Berkshires and how best to help them. Some have noted the work of our Diocese in Springfield and surrounding urban communities. The question is can our Parish, with its limited resources and members, take on work in this area or would it be better to support organizations who already have experience and a track record? Given that quandary, Gail invited Brooke Mead, program coordinator of the Berkshire Immigrant Center, to speak to the committee. Well prepared and vibrant, Brooke led us through both a historical view of immigration in this country, and on facts and myths concerning the current status of immigration in the nation and particularly in the County.

“The ultimate motivation of migration is not economic or political: it is simple human dignity — the desire to life a dignified life,” she told the committee, citing reports and statistics.

The committee continues to have this topic on their agenda, in addition to discussing a possible support of Cuttington College in Liberia, as well as our old friend Expanding Opportunities in Kenya (run by Parishioner Gwen Gilbert’s daughter). Debbie Burke and Jeff Kittross have reported regularly on the Affordable Housing initiative which has gone well but is somewhat stalled by the State’s lack of revenues at the moment. Recently Diocesan Trustees met in the Parish House with CDC’s Tim Geller and Jeff Kittross to check on the work and status of the Saw Mill (affordable housing) project, which has been granted a loan by the Diocese.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

88 Walker Street, Lenox, MA 01240

