

Trinity Episcopal Church ~~ Pre-Lenten News

February 2009

During this winter season we reflect on the past and anticipate the period of preparation and contemplation that is Lent. This newsletter reports announces the special services and forums we will offer as a Lenten community, and reports Trinity's 2008 Annual Meeting,

Lenten Activities and Services

Shrove Tuesday: February 24, 5-7 p.m. -- Pancake Supper prepared by the men of the parish to support Trinity's Outreach efforts. Eat well, do good, bring friends.

Ash Wednesday: February 25, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. -- Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

Wednesdays in Lent: 7 p.m. -- Holy Eucharist with Laying-on-of-Hands for Healing, followed by light supper and discussion in the House Parish

Sundays in Lent: 11:30 to noon -- Adult Forums in the Parish House

Lenten Sunday Adult Forums

“What every Episcopalian should know about Christianity”

March 1st Our Story. Every religion has a “story”, or narrative. Ours is the Bible. How are we to approach and to understand the Bible? Three keys to reading and hearing God's Word in the Old and New Testaments will be presented. *The Rector.*

March 8th Our Belief. Every religion has a, more or less, agreed set of beliefs. Ours are expressed in the historic creeds. Learn how these statements came about as the Church struggled to find ways of expressing its experience of Jesus as both fully human and fully divine and its belief in a triune God. *Dr. Joe Carry.*

March 15th Our Worship. Every religion finds its voice in prayer and praise. Episcopalians inherited a reformed version of the ordered liturgy of the Middle Ages. Why do we worship as we do and how has a rediscovery of ancient Christian worship affected our contemporary liturgies? *The Reverend Tad Evans.*

March 22nd Our Church. Every religion becomes institutionalized. How that happened to Christianity, how it took form within Britain and how the Church of England contributed to the spread of the Christian faith throughout the world, constitutes the history of our Church. *The Rector.*

March 29th Our Behavior. Every religion has a moral dimension. What are Christian ethics and how do we decide how we should live? Three approaches to this question will be described. *The Rector.*

*The Parish gathered in the Parish Hall after the 10:15 Sunday service on February 2nd to find a bountiful lunch laid out by **Launce Blenkin** and **Liz Celli** with plates of sandwiches and cookies “made by ladies of the church,” according to Launce.*

Annual Meeting

After calling the meeting to order shortly after 11:30, The Rector noted that we “owe a debt of gratitude” to all the ministries at Trinity. Retiring Senior Warden **Marnie Miller** was thanked and praised for her years of service and hard work on the construction projects. She in turn praised and thanked retiring Vestry: Clerk **George Bergen**, members **Gail Street**, **Betsey Bemis**, and **Eleanore Velez**, and welcomed the new Vestry and officers. They will be **Reggie Cooper**, Senior Warden; **Steve Peters** continuing as Junior Warden, **Inga Dean** as Clerk, **Eugenie Fawcett** continuing as Treasurer, and **Jeff Kittross**, **John Veague**, and **Marian Rutledge** as new members.

Financial reports included the impact of dropping markets. Yet, there is good news. A legacy gift from Trinity historian **John Gable** led to a surplus of more than \$17,000 for the year 2008. The 2009 budget has been balanced with what the Rector characterized as a “leap of faith”: an income line of \$26,000 that, it is hoped, will be made up by more parish family pledges and special gifts.

Marnie Miller noted in her report the importance of remembering Trinity in our wills and said that there were various ways of doing that, including a simple codicil, and that Stephen could advise any parishioner about them. **Reggie Cooper** stressed that the investment income estimates are “realistic”, predicted to be about \$30,000 less than last year and that he is “hopeful “ that the estimate “for 2009 is conservative.” All expenses have been cut, the Rector has refused a raise or cost of living adjustment, and the total budget has been reduced by over \$12,000.

We no doubt need to fasten our seatbelts for a bumpy ride, but watching the Godly Play children stream merrily out of church and help themselves to lunch, seeing the affection and ease of the group gathered, and being hardy New Englanders by birth or choice, it looks promising for 2009. *(For more information see the 2008 Annual Report. Minutes of the Annual Meeting now available at the church office.)*

We must replenish our endowment as well as increase it if we are going to ensure the ongoing health of Trinity. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see a time when the endowment could be used to fund operations, freeing up nearly every penny of what you contribute in annual stewardship to be used for God's work — outreach, education and worship?
Marnie Miller, Retiring Sr. Warden

People and Celebrations

The birthday boys: 30 children sang Happy Birthday to **Launce Blenkin**, **Ned Dana** and **Bud Wells** at a recent coffee hour. **Gillian Booth** got a birthday serenade at the Annual Meeting.

We wish editor **Inga Dean** a successful and speedy recovery, and look forward to her return to pews and computer!