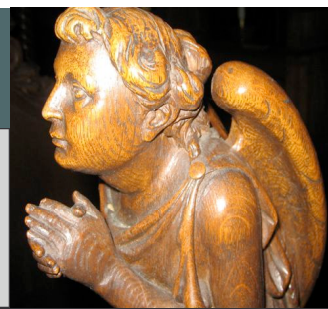


# Parish Newsletter

TrinityLenox.org

Epiphany 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

Thursday 10 AM  
Holy Eucharist  
followed by Bible study

### Taizé Service

2nd Sunday, 5 PM

### Corporate Moring Prayer

First Saturdays, 8 AM, Chapel  
Breakfast follows

### Choir Rehearsals

9:30 AM choir room  
GP Choir: after 10:15  
service

### Third Thursday Lunches

Every month, at noon, Parish  
House. All invited.

### Parish Annual Meeting

Sunday Feb. 1 after 10:15  
service, Parish Hall

**Parish Newsletter:** We believe it will better serve the Parish to publish the newsletter to conform to the Church year rather than the 12 month calendar and also, to save postage, to publish less frequently.

Remember that those of you with Internet access can check TrinityLenox.org on the Web for updates. Our Webmaster Dick Burke keeps the site updated, and also posts the newsletter.

## Notes from the Rector's Desk

### Feeding the Good Wolf

As we begin a new calendar year and as we look back upon our ministry at Trinity in 2008 and forward to our hopes and expectations for our work as the people of God in this place and time, we cannot but be aware of the world in which we find ourselves.

As we gather for prayer in the Chapel, I am daily reminded of the challenges facing us in 2009. Our prayers form a litany of those challenges: Gaza, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Congo, Georgia... economic chaos, record unemployment, financial uncertainty... In this season of Epiphany – the season of light – our prayers form a litany of darkness, not of light.

What are faithful people to make of this?

Some have told me that the following story is helpful.

*One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside all people.*

*He said, 'My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all.*

*One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.*

*The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.'*

*The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: 'Which wolf wins?'*

*The old Cherokee simply replied, 'The one you feed.'*



If we feed the dark (evil) wolf within, we feed the anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego, that is within us.

But if we feed the light (good) wolf within, we feed joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.

For Christians feeding the good wolf means allowing God's spirit to enter into us. We say, with God, "Let there be light".

Jesus allowed the light to be born in him. The good wolf was so perfectly nurtured in him that His Father sent His Spirit to him at the river Jordan to proclaim him as His Son – "in whom He was well pleased." At the beginning of the twenty first century, we face the same challenge: to manifest the light, God's goodness, in the dark places and in the face of evil.

If we feed the good wolf and starve the evil wolf within us, then God will look at us and say, "These are my children in whom I am well pleased."

Please join us on **Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>** at the **Annual Meeting**, following the 10.15 a.m. service to hear of the ways in which we have been blessed in 2008 and to offer your support for feeding the good wolf within in 2009.

## AROUND THE PARISH: LIVING IN A FRAGILE WORLD

*I know that my selfish desires won't let me do anything that is good. Even when I want to do right, I cannot. Instead of doing what I know is right, I do wrong. (Paul in Romans 7:18-19)*

With members of Trinity's Carbon Footprints groups gathered in the Rectory, Heather Heim recently presented a story of the earth — Living in a Fragile World — in a Godly Play mode and stunned her listeners. In the measured voice of a GP story teller, Heather started with an earth without features and then it grew beautiful with nature and then, gradually, the boxes that surrounded her were dumped on the earth and the earth became dirty, chaotic, a jumble of toxins and waste. As GP stories are meant to be told, Heather told it without notes, using silence, reflection and wondering. In that setting, looking down at that globe of blue felt (as seen in photo at right), the impact of what we have done to the place God created was devastating.

Adapted by Claudia Wells who prepared the story materials and worked with daughter Heather on the presentation, the story is suggested by Peter Privett, the author of *Living in a Fragile World*. Privett, an Anglican priest, educator, story teller, artist, and Godly Play trainer led the workshop our GP story tellers attended in November. He writes: "Martin Ashley has written of the importance of recovering a spiritual dimension in the area of environmental education...a movement away from seeing the environment as another commodity, an object to be manipulated and a place where humans set themselves over and against it. He calls for spiritual understanding, which includes understanding the interconnectedness...oneness with ultimate...reintegration..." But also: "The spiritually developed person is able to perceive meaning and purpose in life, as well as mission or sense of purposeful vocation."

The Godly Play method of story telling lends itself superbly to this environmental story in Heather's serene voice — without censure or emotion, which might preclude engagement — and with the use of materials (as each dropped on the once beautiful earth everyone flinched) we hear the story and also see it. "Godly Play," Claudia explains to us, "teaches that everything in God's creation is charged with the possibility of holiness, including each one of us, and that we are in relationship with everything in creation."

We were not left in hopeless desolation because Trinity's Carbon Footprint groups have found they could in their own small ways, reduce their footprints and that it is in each person's power to affect the earth for good or ill. Claudia reminded us that Paul's next chapter, in his letter to the church in Rome, is about his vision of the wholeness of creation, the integration of flesh and spirit, the integration of struggle and achievement, the integration of death and life, culminating in the person of Christ. Reports from the two groups, led by Ann St. Clair and Joe Carry, will be in our next issue and should inspire us all.

**Other news:** Launce Blenkin tells us that there were 45 children at the early Christmas Eve service, among them several who were visitors. "I have never seen a more beautiful service," says Launce. Did you notice the tree in the Narthex with the beautiful white and gold decorations? Flower Chair Judith Macioge had asked member Ann St. Clair to arrange for a tree in the Narthex this year and Ann and Claudia decided to follow a relatively new traditions — a Chrisman tree, says Ann, "entirely devoted to Christ." Gold symbolizes Jesus' majesty and White is the liturgical color for Christmas that reflects His purity and perfection. The tradition traces back 50 years to Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. Photo of one of decorations is at left (check it on Web — all photos in color).

The service of Christmas lessons and Carols which was broadcast by WMAC was a great success, attended by over 100 people in spite of the snow. A CD will be made for sale later.

*Photos in this issue: Wells & Heim, Godly Play children and Chrisman; GP kids at Rectory, Gilliam Booth*



### Trinity Episcopal Parish

Canon Stephen Paul Booth, *Rector*

Marnie Miller, *Senior Warden*

Stephen Peters, *Junior Warden*

George Bergen, *Clerk*

Reggie Cooper, *Treasurer*

Eugenie Fawcett, *Deputy Treasurer*

*Vestry:*

Ruth Arisman, Betsy Bemis, Susan Dana, Cathy

Fabian, Heather Heim, Eleanore Velez, Diana

Redfern, Gail Street

Anita Stuart, *Organist and Choir Director*

Lisa Noferi, *Administrator*

*Parishioner:* Barbara and Stuart Bartle

*Newsletter:* Inga Dean *Production:* Cathy Fabian



## La Posada in the Rectory for Godly Play Children

*Gillian Booth reports:* The snow storm on December 19th resulted in the cancellation of the Rectory Godly Play party for the children and parents. However, all was not lost as the children - all 23 of them gathered in the Rectory during the Sunday service to listen to the story of the Holy Family beautifully told by Mary Jane Emmet. This was followed by a telling of the Mexican Legend of the Poinsettia by Eleanore Velez assisted with the illustrations in the book of the same name by Tomie dePaola. In Mexico the poinsettia is called "La Flora de Nochebuena", the Flower of the Holy Night.

A reenactment of the journey to Bethlehem — La Posada — was led by Eleanore Velez in the Mexican tradition. In Mexico, people process from house to house asking for shelter and being rejected, ending at the church on Christmas Eve where the Eucharist is celebrated. Eleanore commented on the similarity to our Procession to the Creche at Trinity on Christmas Eve. The children walked around the rectory where different inns were set up on the second floor offices/bedrooms. Innkeepers were assigned to the inns,



named after five of the twelve tribes of Israel. When the children portraying Mary and Joseph knocked, the innkeepers appeared to tell them there was "no room at the inn." Finally the whole group of children arrived at the "Trinity" Inn in the living room where they were permitted to settle in the stable for the birth of the Christ Child. Following this activity, the parents arrived from the church to share in the "feast" in Godly Play terms. The morning ended with the children standing on the stairs with Anita Stuart playing the keyboard to sing carols and songs they had learned. From our small beginnings five years ago when there were possibly five children on the stairs, we now needed two rows with children stretching around the first landing peering down at the adults and music director, Anita. And so the party that wasn't, was held in a modified form two days later. *(photo at left, GP kids on Rectory stairs)*

A Story Basket: A Godly Play child tells his own story using a script he has written and objects chosen by him to represent different aspects of his life. (below) To right: Godly Play.



## Silver Tea raises \$3,233 for Kenya relief

“The Silver Tea for 2008 was such a success,” reports Outreach Chair Gail Street enthusiastically. “Thanks to Heather Heim, Eleanor Velez, and Linda Cooper and all of the other helpers, we sent a healthy check to Expanding Opportunities to help street children in Africa.” This is the third year the Maine based NPO has been the recipient of Silver Tea funds. EO director Beverly Stone, parishioner Gwen Gilbert’s daughter, also met with the Godly Play children (*see photo below right of children with EO’s artist’s crafts*).

Gail reports further:

Table earnings: Bulbs: \$630.00 ( expenses were \$330.00+ for bulbs), Knit goods: \$135.00, Tea Table: \$163.00,

Bake Table: \$399.00, Kids Table: \$93.50, Cards: \$110.00

Soups: \$208.00, Expanding Opportunities Tables: \$1,738.00

Donations to the Tea: \$407.00

We sent a check for \$3,233.00 to Expanding Opportunities for their work.

Thank you to all who supported the Silver Tea with your time, talent and treasure. If anyone would like to send a check or did not have the opportunity to attend the Silver Tea, send your check to:

*Brooks, Maine 04921*

## A fine musical season at Trinity, Anita reports

From Anita Stuart: We had quite a musical Advent 4 and Christmas eve. On Sunday, Dec. 21, the Chancel Choir, the Children's Choir and the Cantilena Chamber Choir joined together for a Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols. Matthew Heim's solo was just beautiful! The choirs sounded heavenly! Our guest violinist Blng Liu played exquisitely, and her music was a great addition to the service. The service was recorded by WMHT and was broadcast on Christmas Eve and again on Christmas night. At the 5 PM service on Christmas eve, the Godly Play Singers and Children's Choir sang three anthems, and they sounded angelic! At the 10PM service, members of the Cantilena Choir plus our Marion Rutledge sang Christmas anthems and carols and were in fine voice!



**TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
88 Walker Street, Lenox, MA 01240

