

PARISH LETTER

Sunday Services

8 AM

*Said Eucharist
(breakfast follows)*

10:15 AM

*Sung Eucharist
(coffee hour follows)*

Taizé Service

*2nd Sunday, 5PM
in January*

Weekday Services

*Morning Prayer 7 AM
Monday through Saturday*

Silver Tea

*Saturday, Dec. 4
10 am to 3 PM*

Concert

*Sunday, Dec. 5, 3 PM
Cantilena Chamber Choir
(our children participate)*

Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols

Sunday, Dec. 19, 5 PM

*Third Thursday Lunch
Parish House, noon*

Choirs

*Chancel Choir rehearsals
Nov. 14 & 21, Dec. 5 & 12
Children's Choir: rehearsals
3:15 to 4, 4 to 4:30*

Vestry

Nov. 29, 7PM, Parish House

Joyous sounds from our Godly Play children

And there is plenty of it: nineteen children are singing in Trinity's Children's Choir. They began rehearsals with music director Anita Stuart at the end of September and have already participated in an October service.

On December 19th they will sing at the Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols, as well as on Christmas Eve at 5 PM, and on the fourth Sundays of the month after that. As you can see from the photo on the right, the kids are ready for prime time.

The choir was so large that Anita divided it into two groups for rehearsals. If you walk past the church on a Wednesday afternoon you will hear great singing, and laughter too.

Godly Play, Godly Circle and Journey to Adulthood have a total of 36 children thus far — and at the risk of repeating ourselves too often, we have to say that we sometimes pinch ourselves and remember that not long ago our young people consisted of one teenager. A credit to our Rector, an inspired parishioner, our kids and their parents, the creative faithful work of the organizers, teachers and greeters, our church musician, and the parish that has supported it all.



Reggie Cooper — Fone Foto

Stewardship Drive Kicks off on Nov. 7th

Bruce Rockwell, Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship, wrote recently that “God has created us and entrusted us with all that is and all that is commonly called *ours*” and notes that we are stewards of ourselves, our bodies, our time, our money. And of course, as we are commanded as Christians, of each other. Nonetheless people shrink back (leap back?) when they are (1) asked for money and (2) when they are asked to ask for money.

Years ago this writer heard someone who managed a very worthy Non-Profit say that giving was a privilege, supporting an organization that one believed in was a very great privilege, and asking for support was honoring people by offering them an opportunity to become part of a wider world and be stewards of more than just themselves.

As George Bergen said (see page 2, bottom) in accepting a Diocesan honor for our legacy stewardship: “We are blessed with heritage buildings and it is our obligation to maintain and care for them. St. Benedict, in his Rule, gave instructions for the care of souls as well as the care and management of material possessions of the Community.”

A parishioner told us that recently he had sat in Trinity Church one afternoon when it was otherwise empty of worshippers, just to grasp the beauty of the place and the sense of the generations that had worshipped there before him. As we watch our wonderful children learning and giving, and our parishioners who work so hard at outreach, governing, preserving our buildings, supporting each other, we know that Trinity has many stewards — has had them now for three centuries — and that we indeed are blessed.

I. Dean

AROUND THE PARISH

Our Rector has a new granddaughter: **Keira**, born to daughter Sara on Oct. 16 in Toronto.

Your are invited: **Gwen Gilbert** will be celebrating her 90th birthday — her kids are marking it with a “drop in” party on Saturday, Dec. 18 at 2 PM in the Community Center at Salisbury Estates (off West Street) in Pittsfield. Gwen would be pleased to have Trinity parishioners help her celebrate — though she cautions that it’s just a “light buffet of appetizers and of course birthday cake.”

Barbara Bartle home from rehab for a broken ankle and celebrating the publication of her new book of memoirs *A Vanished World* — a lovely book, available at The Bookstore where she had a massively well attended reading this week. Noted in Oct. 22 Eagle:

ANNUAL MEETING AND NOMINATIONS

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, January 30th, 2011, when elections will be held for the following:

- Executive Committee Members are elected annually. The current officeholders are: Reggie Cooper, *Senior Warden*, Steve Peters, *Junior Warden*, Eugénie Fawcett, *Treasurer* and Inga Dean *Parish Clerk*. All are eligible for re-election.
- Three members of Vestry are elected for three-year terms. The current members whose terms expire are Cathy Fabian, Heather Heim and James Journey, Jr. All are eligible for re-election to second three-year terms.
- Trinity is eligible to send three Delegates to Convention and to elect an Alternate. Our Delegates for 2010 were Gail Street, George Bergen and Dr. Richard Burke. All are eligible for re-election.

Canon Stephen Booth

parishioner **Ellen Spears** addressing members of the Berkshire Visitor’s Bureau as outgoing board of directors chair, welcoming her successor **Reggie Cooper**, general manager of Canyon Ranch. **Nick & Kris Macioge**, and granny **Judith Macioge**, welcomed **Frances**, named after her grandfather **Frank**. Frances joins brothers **Reid & Ozzie**. Happy 90th **Harry Roth!** Harry, revered by parishioners for his amazing array of goodies once a month at Coffee Hour, was a WWII pilot.

Trinity lectors gathered in the chapel, in a large circle around actor and drama teacher **Robert Serrell** (and husband of **Catherine Taylor-Williams**) on a recent Saturday morning to (in our Rector’s words) “learn how to best liberate the word of God” and fulfill Paul’s message to Timothy that “the word of God is not chained.” While most thought this would be about elocution and audibility, it was not about emoting like a great Shakespearian actor but about finding and discerning the message of the Lesson and relating to it personally from one’s own experience — so that it could be shared from the heart with the

congregation. Bob believes that if readers in preparing the Lesson realize that they are essentially talking to their fellow congregants, the techniques will follow. Several brave souls volunteered to try it out and under Bob’s gentle encouragement and guidance they searched into their own relationship to the reading’s message, and the readings indeed got more powerful and clearer and in fact very moving. It was for Trinity’s cadre of readers, a revelation in understanding their purpose on the lectern, their relationship to the reading and to their listeners. And God willing, practice will make us all better and better!

LEGACY STEWARDSHIP AWARD FROM THE BISHOP

John Veague headed a very successful and well designed campaign to enroll Trinity Parishioners in the Third Century Society. The only price of admission is arranging to leave behind a gift to Trinity Parish — of any amount, great or small. Twenty three parishioners signed on as the Society marks Trinity’s third century in Lenox. While our 18th century Trinity forbearers could have hardly imagined our 21st century parish — after all one of the problems in 1795 was “Rude Boys who have much disturbed the congregation” which is something none of *our* boys would do — they would expect us to serve it as well as they did. Below are George Bergen’s remarks accepting on behalf of Trinity Parish a certificate of recognition from the Diocese for our legacy giving program at last month’s Convention. The Parish was congratulated on having the highest percentage of members making legacy gifts of any parish in the Diocese. There will be a lunch on Nov. 14th to honor Founding Members of the Society, with Parishioners Nini Gilder and Richard Jackson talking about Trinity’s history. If you want more information you can call the office (637-0073) to discuss a legacy gift with the Rector or John. “Every gift, no matter what its size is an important contribution to Trinity’s future,” says John.

...On behalf of those who could not be here to receive this award, I thank you for honoring the work and accomplishments of the Legacy Stewardship Program at Trinity, Lenox.

The purpose of this program is to stimulate the involvement of parishioners in the continued life of the church. We stand on the shoulders of those who went before us. We are blessed with heritage buildings and it is our obligation to maintain and care for them.

St. Benedict, in his Rule, gave instructions for the care of souls as well as the care and management of material possessions of the Community. The tradition of understanding that the wholeness and holiness of our souls and bodies are intertwined is an ancient one. In that spirit we acknowledge that Trinity’s heritage buildings require that the interest from our endowment be used to repair, restore and maintain those buildings – the outward signs of the Episcopal Church’s worshipping, nurturing and serving presence in our community. We cannot allow ourselves to be negligent in dealing with Church property.

I might also add, that on a wider scale, Trinity’s Legacy Stewardship is not limited to serving Trinity but extends to all the congregations of the Diocese. Long time Trinity parishioner John Van Lund’s legacy gift to the Diocese was used to help balance the Diocesan Budget for 2011. (George Bergen at Convention)

SILVER TEA TIME — DECEMBER 4TH

There is no better place to be on a frosty winter Saturday in the Berkshires than Trinity's Silver Tea. Age has not withered nor custom staled this annual tea party (nor its infinite variety) — tables set festively, a groaning board laden with sandwiches and cakes and cookies, silver tea and coffee services, and the noble women of the parish pouring — and lots of Christmas gift buying opportunities.

Trinity's Medical Emergency Fund

The Vestry has been discussing a fund that was left to Trinity by a parishioner in the 1940s and has recently been rediscovered. The money was very thoughtfully left to BMC to take care of the medical bills of Trinity Parishioners in need of help defraying the cost of their medical treatments, at the discretion of the Rector.

Parishioners can call Canon Booth to discuss the fund if they would like to apply to it.

Emily Kittross and Virginia Giddens are co-chairs of the Dec. 4th event.

Our old friends Expanding Opportunities with their beautiful and bountiful handmade African crafts will be there. Gwen Gilbert's daughter Beverly Stone founded and operates this organization that does such vital work with Kenya's "street children." Check out the photos and information on the Parish Hall Bulletin Boards. Susan Dana will reprise her flower bulb table, as well as a knit table which is usually sold out quickly and the parish children will have a table with help from Heather

Heim and Linda Cooper. Our Society reporter Launce Blenkin promises his cucumber sandwiches which fly off the serving trays, in addition to the calorie-butter-sugar laden and undeniably delicious home baked goodies under the leadership of Vi Switzer & friends and a platoon of parish bakers.



This year the Expanding Opportunities table monies will go to that organization and all other profits will go to the Episcopal Relief Fund's work in Haiti. The Outreach Committee has been discussing ways of supporting the Church's efforts in Haiti where conditions get more dire every day.

The Tea is certainly a great way to both support good works while stopping for awhile, perhaps inviting friends, having some tea, buying some presents, supporting vital work being done far from these green (or will they be white?) hills.

Reggie Cooper — children rehearsing

Windows Moving Along

Steve Peters reports that work on the windows on the courtyard (north side) have been completed, most recently the two Tiffany windows (includes the Chester Arthur window). Next come the four windows on the other side. With the Lexan gone and the new protective glass in place, the beauty of the stained glass is in sharp relief. James Jurney Jr. has taken some magnificent photos of the windows which he will soon share with the Parish. Steve reports that funds raised covered the full price of the first set of windows and \$3,250 of the \$5,225 has been contributed for the next four.

The final phase of the work, being done by expert restorer David Garducci, will be the two rose windows — one in the church, the other in the Parish House. Mr. Garducci reports that what is so unusual about the Church's rose window (paid for by money raised by the children of the parish in the 1880s), is that not only did Tiffany design it but also actually worked on it, rather than having his studio do all the work.

That will be a major project, probably involving removal of the window — and that is a bridge we haven't crossed yet. We'll think about it tomorrow.

Thanksgiving Families, Affordable Housing: Outreach Report

- Two Thanksgiving families this year. Please keep watch for the sign up sheets which will be posted in the Parish House on the second Sunday in November. The food that you sign up to contribute will need to be delivered to the Parish House by Monday morning, Nov. 21st, so it can be brought to the families. We are working with the Lenox Housing Authority Executive Director Martha Joyner and the school nurse for both elementary and high school.
- The committee has been discussing alternative ways to pursue and attain our goal of owner occupied affordable housing. The Diocese has been very supportive of this project as well as the town and we will keep you informed on the progress. *Gail Street*

Autumn

Autumn with its brazen colors
Reminds us of changing seasons
Reminds us that we are on the cusp
Of a new Liturgical Season — Advent

Advent — The Church's gift to its people
To prepare, with quiet reflection and prayer
To celebrate Christ's Birth
When with lights and joyous singing

We remember the Angel telling the Shepherds
"I bring you good news...for to you is born
This day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"
Thus the tightness of winter

We find the first hints of vivifying Spring
Life once again taking us on the path
Of Jesus' life amongst us
His Passion, Death, and Resurrection

And always — whether it be Autumn or Spring
Always we have Jesus
Our Rock and our Salvation
His presence — always a call to Life.

George Bergen

Trinity Episcopal Church
88 Walker Street
Lenox, MA 01240

Vestry in (very) Brief: October 25th Meeting

- Report on and discussion of finances. Endowment is up.
- Stewardship Committee plans. Reminder that pledges determine budget. Three legged stool: annual pledges, capital expenses & legacy.
- Legacy: honor from Diocese (page 2), Mr. Veague's leadership in the successful campaign noted. Legacy dinner slated Nov. 14.
- Buildings and grounds: discussion of windows (see p. 3). Need carpenter to fix kitchen door. Several small projects lined up. One hatch complete, other in progress and involves relocating some of the electricians, working on masonry. Parish house steps. Discussion of dumpster — plan is to get smaller one when work on basement ceilings finished.
- Outreach: (See p. 3) \$1015 in contributions in memory of Enoch Booth sent to Christian Center. In discussion with Lenox Housing Authority on Thanksgiving families and also Lenox School nurse re Thelma's Little Fund. Money to be sent to emergency fuel fund — probably \$1,400. Silver tea (see p. 3), affordable housing (ibid).
- Nurture: Discussion of children's choir, singing with enthusiasm. Praise for Ms. Stuart. J2A discussing profound issues. Rector thanks Mrs. Heim for her hard and effective work on all aspects of children at Trinity, Ms. Heim thanks Linda Cooper for same.
- Inventory: it proceeds. Mr. Jurney shows brochure re windows he is working on. Much praise for his photos and work.
- A Mrs. Booth-baked cake brought out for Ms. Fabian's birthday.