

The Trinitarian



News, Notes and Inspiration from Trinity Church Oxford

July & August 2011

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[The Rev. Richard Robyn,](#)
[Rector](#)

Mary Sampson, M.A.,
Organist/Choirmaster

[Chris Claypoole,](#) [Secretary](#)

Michael Pacillio, Sexton

Our Vestry

[Dorothy Orr,](#) [Rector's Warden](#)

Judith Maile, Accounting

Warden

John Annand

Nellie Duddy

Lynne Geliebter

Rose McClarin

Pamela McCracken

From the Rector

My Dear People,



In the Book of Genesis, we read that God created the world in six days, and on the seventh, he rested from his labors. From that ancient story, we can see that there is something fitting and even holy about taking the time, once our work is completed, to rest and enjoy the fruits of what we have done.

This "program year" that just ended was definitely a busy one for us here at Trinity. A great deal of work was done in maintaining the grounds and buildings, grand celebrations and liturgies were planned and executed, and much missionary work was done. We all should be proud of our accomplishments and ready now for a bit of a reprieve.

I hope that each of you, in your own way, will be intentional about taking some time to rest and play with your family and friends. It is so easy to get caught up in the trivialities of this life and use them as an excuse to put off the things that really matter-our relationships with God, our communities and our families. Get out your list of contacts, whether it be on your brand new "i-whatever" or in an old fashioned address book. Go through it and look for friends or family whom you haven't spoken to in a while and reach out. You will be glad you did.

So, whether you're venturing around the globe or around the block for water-ice this summer, I wish you happiness and safety. Make some wonderful new memories, and share some old ones with a friend. And remember, the Church never takes a vacation, so come to Trinity (8am or 10am every Sunday) or wherever you are, I hope you will find a church to attend. If you would like suggestions, I will be happy to help, and please do bring me a copy of the service paper-not that I am checking up on you, of course-I just like to see what other churches are doing. Happy Summer! Father Richard



Celebrating 300 Years

Last month, we celebrated 300 years of worship in our

Charles McGee
Robert Miller
Victoria Sayers
Melinda Weaver
Judith Williamson



current building. Built in 1711, the church building predates Benjamin Franklin's arrival in Philadelphia, the construction of Independence Hall, and the founding of the University of Pennsylvania. The following six stories highlight the festivities...

Website Resources

[Calendar](#)
[History](#)
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[Newsletter Archive](#)
[Photos](#)
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2011

Confirmation Class

Jaci Serena Daulerio

John Annand Furlong

Sarah Elizabeth Henry

Kathleen Elizabeth
McConomy

Megan Marie McGee

Jacob Alexander Morson

Madeline Burgoine
Putterman

Ainsley Holland Sherman

Bronwen Ann Page Sherman

Margaret Eynon Smith

300th Anniversary Committee

John Annand

Pete Datos

Tom & Nellie Duddy

Mark & Judy Maile

Pam McCracken

Commendations



Our significant milestone was recognized by many organizations. Marian Tasco, our City Council representative presented us with a commendation at the Evensong service on June 17. We also received commendations from President Barack Obama, US Senator Bob Casey, US Representative Allyson Schwartz, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett, State Senator Shirley M. Kitchen, State Representative Brendan F. Boyle and the Vestry of St. Mark's Church Frankford - these will all be added to our historic archives. Plus, this just in, congratulations from Her Majesty, the Queen of England - please see her message at the end of this newsletter! We were also featured on the local ABC evening news.

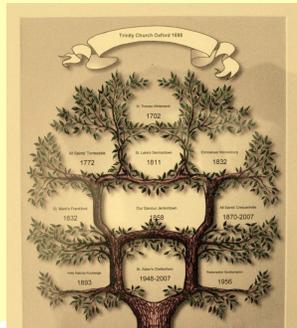
Confirmations



On Trinity Sunday, June 19, Bishop Edward Lee and the whole congregation welcomed our class of ten confirmands fully into the faith. The confirmation class (see side bar for list of names) met with the bishop before the service to answer his questions, led the readings during the service, and even wrote a special version of the prayers of the people for the occasion. Please join us in congratulating these fine young people who worked so hard in preparing to receive this important sacrament. Please visit our website for [pictures of the event](#).

It is appropriate that this event marked the pinnacle of our anniversary celebrations and occurred on our Feast of Title, the day when churches celebrate the Divine Person, saint, mystery or event after which the church is named. Most churches pull out all the stops for this important day. At Trinity, we also consider this day our birthday since we're so old that we don't know exactly when in 1698 the first service was held here.

Evensong



On Friday, June 17, Bishop Charles E. Bennisson rededicated our historic church building during a traditional Evensong service that was filled with beautiful music and solemn prayers. The service began with a welcome prelude by the bell choir in the churchyard and during the service the ten parishes Trinity helped found were recognized with a framed "family tree" and commendations were

Chuck McGee

Dottie Orr

Sarah, Alex & Maddy
Putterman

Fr. Richard Robyn

Mary Sampson

Mindy Weaver

Judy Williamson



presented. All of this was followed by a bountiful reception in the Buchanan Building. Please visit our [website for pictures](#).



Our Heritage

A number of opportunities to learn about our history were organized around this milestone anniversary. The Vestry approved a display cabinet for the Buchanan Building and Mindy Weaver, our historian, organized a display of historic Trinity objects and documents that can still be seen on Sundays, along with a fascinating timeline of events from our founding until now. Please visit our ["hall of history"](#) on our website for more information. In addition,

Madeline Putterman created a podcast starring the entire confirmation class which highlights the history and present day life of our parish community. To see the podcast, please visit the [home page of our website](#) and click on the picture of Trinity.



Recognition & Picnic

On Pentecost Sunday, June 12, the parish family came together for our annual "Recognition Sunday," at which we show our appreciation to all who helped out in the past year - which is just about everyone! Many thanks to our Acolytes, Altar Guild, Church School pupils & teachers, Eucharistic ministers, GFS members, lectors, musicians, Prayers & Squares, ushers, Women of Trinity, Youth Group, and those who help with coffee

hour, communications, finance, outreach, pastoral care, property and stewardship. After the service, we enjoyed a delicious picnic on the grounds and invited the whole neighborhood to a free, old-fashioned parish fair. A large "band organ" played music to delight all ages, a jumpy castle provided an energy outlet for the young, tours of the historic church were given, and many folks also took the self-guided tour of the parish graveyard. Please visit our website for [pictures of the event](#).



Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to help make Trinity sparkle and our community feel welcome throughout our celebratory week! We would especially like to thank the members of the Anniversary Committee (see side bar for list of names) for the months of planning that went into the

events, all those who participated in clean-up day ([visit our website for pictures](#)), Mary Sampson for the beautiful music throughout the week, Alex Putterman for designing our commemorative lapel pins, Father Richard and Pete Datos for donating the band organ and jumpy castle, Dottie Orr and Lorie Henry for helping prepare the confirmands, Vicki MacMillan for the calligraphy on the confirmation certificates, Mindy

Weaver for the history exhibit and timeline, Father Richard for creating the Trinity Christmas Ornament and for reaching out to religious and civic leaders, Pete Datos for the press release, Maddy Putterman and the confirmation class for the podcast, Chuck McGee for arranging for a loaner TV, Fred Orr for manning the grill at the picnic, Nellie Duddy and the Women of Trinity for fans to keep us cool, our wonderful tour guides and table staffers, and all the parishioners who brought food and helped set up for each event. We would also like to thank the local business who donated goods, including Acme Markets, Shop Rite Markets, Wetzel & Son, Sherwin-Williams Paints, Hatfield Quality Meats, and Herr Foods.



Calendar Meeting

Before each new program year begins, we hold a calendar meeting to lay out the schedule for the coming year and try to avoid conflicts between the various Trinity committees and ministries. Please join us on Tuesday, August 9, at 7pm in the Rector's office if you represent a committee or group that uses Trinity facilities.



Christmas in July

As a fundraising part of our anniversary celebrations, we created a beautiful Christmas ornament featuring our historic church building. It is based on a drawing made by Thomas Wharton for the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1936. The original drawings are held by the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. You may purchase one for \$20 after Church or by sending a check for \$25 (which includes shipping & handling) to the church office. It may also be purchased via the [donate button on our website](#). Remember, it's never too early to begin thinking about Christmas gifts for your friends and family members!



Deacon Update

Now that Father Don Graff has retired, I have transferred my social service internship for my diaconal training to St. Mark's Frankford under Father Jon Clodfelter. I will still be assisting the Free Church of St. John and the Church of the Good Samaritan with their UrbanServe program in July. Through the end of the year, I will be working with Father Jon and the Northeast Committee on Homelessness along with several other projects. I have already begun this work and look forward to the opportunities and experiences that this will give me. Peace, Phil



Memorial

A donation was given last month by Doris & Chris Heise in loving memory of Doris Taylor. May her soul, and the



souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



Mission Trip

We have approximately 6-8 slots open for the Youth Group's Vision Trip to the St. Francis Inn in Kensington. Our mission is to "go, learn, return and respond." The trip will be from the evening of Friday August 12 through Sunday morning August 14, and we will be staying in one of the row houses that the Inn maintains

for volunteers. Please ask Emily Geliebter about her experience last year. You will find it to be moving and life changing! We need to know which members of the youth group will be attending and need adult chaperones as well. Please contact [Phil Geliebter](#) if you can attend.



Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus

[The Philadelphia Museum of Art](#) is exhibiting a collection of Rembrandt's portraits of Jesus and other paintings of Biblical stories, August 3 through October 30. Trinity will be hosting a parish trip to the museum one Sunday after services if enough people are interested. Our preferred date is September 25 (with an alternate date of October 2). This exhibit is the museum's first collaboration with the Louvre and will be the first time some of the paintings have ever been seen in the U.S. The portraits

are reassembled for the first time since they were in the artist's studio in the 17th century.

The cost for the exhibit is \$25 for adults (\$20 for seniors, students with ID, and kids 13 to 18 years; \$12 for kids 5 to 12; free for kids 4 and younger). Groups of 15 or more save \$5 per ticket. We'll carpool to the Museum to save on parking. If interested, please see Mindy Weaver in Church or [email her](#) no later than August 14 with the number of tickets wanted in each category. When we get 15 requests or on August 14 (whichever is sooner), we will make the reservations with the Museum in hopes of getting our preferred date and time.



Summer Coverage

Father Richard will be taking some time off over the next two months. In mid-July, he and Pete will be vacationing in Canada & visiting family in Michigan and Pittsburgh. In late August, they will be on Cape Cod with friends. Please welcome Father John Wallace at the 8am and 10am services on July 10 and 17. In case of emergency July 9 thru 23, Father Wallace can be reached at (850) 525-6220.

And please welcome Father Charles Carter at the 8am and 10am services on August 27 and September 4. In case of emergency August 26 thru September 5, Father Carter can be reached at (215) 247-8312. The office

will remain open throughout the summer on Tuesdays thru Thursdays from 9am to 1pm and can be reached at (215) 745-6114.



The Simple Way

The latest news from [The Simple Way](#) (a partner organization doing good deeds in Kensington) is that they are working on an [Aquaponics project](#). It is an exciting new project that will help feed the neighborhood fresh fruits, veggies & fish without the use of

soil. The Simple Way is building a greenhouse in the neighborhood to house and work this project year round. A neighborhood member will be trained to run the program and teach other non-profits in Philadelphia how to set up and operate a similar system.



Vestry Highlights

During the past month, we met with the assisting bishop as part of his scheduled visitation on June 19. At our regular meeting on June 20, we discussed the plan for repairing water damage in the choir room, recapped 300th anniversary celebrations, and read all commendations into the minutes. We also continued our conversation on mission strategy and building use.

Per a longstanding custom, we voted to suspend the July and August meetings. Our next meeting will be at 7pm on Monday, September 19, in the Buchanan Building.

Calendar and Your Feedback

Using Google Calendars, we've created a [new interactive online calendar](#) on our website that allows you to view events at Trinity by week or month, and in a variety of formats. You can also print out the calendar in a way that works best for you. Please check out this new feature, post the calendar on you refrigerator or somewhere handy, and let me know what you think about it. Please also email any input for the September Trinitarian to me by August 27. Cheers, [Pete](#) (your Trinitarian editor)

Upcoming Events

Every Sunday, Mass at 8am (spoken) and 10am (with music and followed by "goodies in the graveyard")

Tuesday, August 9, Calendar Meeting at 7pm in the Rector's office

August 12-14, Mission Trip to the St. Francis Inn



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

27th June, 2011

Dear Mr Robyn.

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for your letter in which you tell her of this year of celebration for Trinity Church Oxford.

Her Majesty was most interested to learn that the people of your parish, and their ancestors, have worshipped in this church for 313 years, 300 in the present building, and The Queen was touched to learn how much you treasure your historic links with the Church of England, and the Communion Service received in 1713 as a gift from Queen Anne.

Her Majesty much appreciated your greetings and the assurance of your prayers, and was grateful for your message of congratulations on the marriage of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

The Queen hopes that you, the Wardens and Vestrymen and all your Congregation, will enjoy your year of celebration, and Her Majesty sends her good wishes to you all.

*Yours Sincerely
Victoria Gordon Jones*

Lady-in-Waiting

The Reverend RJ. Robyn

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