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The Trinitarian

News, Notes and Inspiration from Trinity Church Oxford Summer 2014

In This Issue

From the Rector
40th Anniversary
Boy Choir Visit
Calendar Meeting
Church School
Flea Market
Marriage Banns
Memorials
Music Ministry
Phillies Phanatics
Prayer Vigil
Renewing Historic Ties
Summer Hours
Trinity Sunday
Vacation Coverage
Vestry Highlights
Wedding Announcement

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Our Staff

The Rev. Richard Robyn, Rector

The Rev. Don Graff, Priest Associate

Mary Sampson, M.A., Organist/Choirmaster

From the Rector

From time-to-time, we receive requests from amateur genealogists who discover that a thread of their family's history is part of the tapestry that is Trinity. This morning, I had the privilege of escorting two such persons from Indiana through our churchyard and historic buildings. Their last name is Ross-yes, that Ross-descendants of Betsy, and Aeneas, as well as the Claypooles and Leeches. They were thrilled to get a personal tour and to have the frontispiece of their prayer book embossed with Trinity's seal, and I was happy to oblige, as I am so proud of our heritage. Their next stop is Immanuel on the Green in Old New Castle, where my friend, Fr. Keene (pictured above), will be their host.

As we prepare to celebrate our 316th birthday on Trinity Sunday, I invite you to think of your place in our history, whether you can trace your family's roots back to the colonial era or you are like me, a newcomer. As Catholic, creedal Christians, we acknowledge in the Apostles' Creed that we believe in the communion of saints. That communion exists across time and space, and in our space, it is not difficult to see and feel that presence. In the marriage rite, we pray, "...that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth, as it is in heaven..." (BCP 430).

And this is what we have been about, from one generation to another: Finding out what is the will of God, and doing it wholeheartedly. We join with our spiritual ancestors in advancing the mission of our parish, which comes forth from the summary of the Law and the great commission. Our first priority is and always has been to gather regularly to worship the Lord our God by hearing his Word, singing his praises, and sharing in His holy mysteries. Thus strengthened, we then go forth into the world to make new disciples, loving our neighbors as ourselves. It's as simple as that; no gimmicks required.

With so firm a foundation, and an army of saints and angels surrounding us, we can go about our mission without anxiety, just as Jesus instructed his disciples to do. And while we must always act prudently with our earthly resources, we must be equally attentive to the movement of the Spirit, being agile and open to change and holy risk-taking. We are, after all, a living, growing thing!

I am humbled and honored to serve as your rector. And now in our fourth

Chris Claypoole, Secretary

Michael Pacillio, Sexton

Our Vestry

Lorraine Henry '15, Rector's Warden

Sarah Putterman '15, Accounting Warden

Amy Furlong, '15

Lynne Geliebter '15

Raymond Grossmuller '16

John McClarin '17

Jason McConomy '17

Susan McConomy '15

Charles McGee '17

Stew Mills '16

Victoria Sayers '17

Judith Williamson '15

Website Resources

Calendar

History

Mission

Newsletter Archive

Photos

Sermons

century of serving God and man in the same location and under the same roof, I hope that you will join me in rejoicing for all that has been and all that is to come. Happy birthday, Trinity! 316 never looked so good!

Father Richard

40th Anniversary of Women's Ordination

On Saturday July 26th, the Diocese of Pennsylvania in conjunction with others throughout the church will host a celebration of the 40th anniversary of women's ordination to the priesthood. Dr. Fredrica Thompsett, Mary Wolfe Professor Emerita of Historical Theology at Episcopal Divinity School, will serve as keynote speaker for the symposium at Temple University. Registration for the symposium and a description of the day's events can be found online.

The Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Katherine Jefferts Schori, will preside and preach at the Holy Eucharist that will begin at 3pm at the Church of the Advocate, where the first ordinations occurred. Please see Father Richard if you're interested in joining Trinity's delegation to this historic event.

Boy Choir Visit

Please join us in welcoming a guest choir from New York City at the 10am service on Sunday, June 22. The Transfiguration Boy Choir is the oldest Choir of Men & Boys in America, and they will be joining us as part of their tour of Philadelphia. Formed in the 1850's, the choir has drawn hundreds of boys from a rich diversity of ethnic and economic backgrounds. Those who pass the audition and commit to the demanding program learn music, discipline, performance skills, cultural history, and the value of teamwork.

The Church of the Transfiguration is where Father Richard served as a seminarian and was ordained a priest. It is also where Pete Datos was received into the Episcopal Church and where Father & Mrs. Graff often attend church while visiting New York.

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 Wednesday, July 16, at 7pm in the Rector's office if you represent a committee or group that uses Trinity facilities.

Trinity's Got Talent

Congratulations to our talented parishioners who starred in musicals this spring! Please don't forget your friends at Trinity when you make it to the big time on Broadway...

Church School

Our ever-popular Church School closed out the school year on Sunday, May 18. Next year we have decided to try starting church school just before the

Jimmy McConomy stars as a Wickersham Brother in Seussical Jr at Holmesburg Christian Academy

Kathleen McConomy stars as Maria in the Sound of Music at New Foundations Charter High School

Megan McGee stars as Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz at Northeast Philadelphia High School

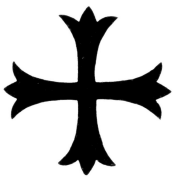
10am service to give the children more opportunities to participate in the Eucharist and Father Richard a chance to spend more time with them in religious formation. As children are wont to do, they grow up fast, and we now have two distinct groups - one group of "tweens", another of babies & toddlers. You can help guide the future leaders of our church by volunteering to be a Sunday School teacher - please see Lorie Henry. Throughout the summer, there will be activities at church every Sunday for kids, so please don't forget that God doesn't take a vacation and we are always here for you and your family.

Flea Market

The Women of Trinity hosted another successful flea market on May 17. Vendors occupied the entire parking lot, and spilled out onto surrounding streets! Many thanks to Mrs. Nellie Duddy, left, for coordinating the event and Mrs. Betty Graff, middle, for hosting a white elephant table during the event, with all proceeds benefitting Trinity! The ladies will host another flea market in October.

Marriage Banns

I hereby publish the banns of marriage between Lisa Padilla and Lisa Rivera. If any of you know cause or just impediment why these persons should not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, ye are to declare it. Father Robÿn



Memorials

Sisters Mabel McMurray, Margaret Romer and Edith McMurray were buried together in our graveyard on May 10 by Father Richard. The Reverend Phyllis Taylor, Trinity's 30th Rector, gave the eulogy. The three sisters were faithful parishioners and lifelong supporters of Trinity, remembering the church graciously in their wills. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Music Ministry

We are truly blessed with a wonderful music program at Trinity! On May 4 we celebrated Choir Recognition Sunday, where our Bell Choir rang and the Senior Choir sang anthems at the Offertory and at Communion. The senior choir will be with us again on Trinity Sunday, June 15, to celebrate our feast of title, before taking some well-deserved time off for the summer.

Phillies Phanatics

One of the highlights of summer at Trinity is the annual diocesan night out with the Philadelphia Phillies. Please join us on Thursday, August 7, as we gather again with our diocesan friends to see the Phillies play the Houston Astros as 7:05pm. Tickets are $28. Please contact Father Richard or Chris in the office before the end of June to reserve a ticket or a custom Trinity Phillies t-shirt.

Prayer Vigil

Members of faith communities in Lawncrest felt called by God to do something about the violence in our neighborhood and gathered for a prayer vigil on Pentecost Sunday. The procession stopped at several churches and a Buddhist temple, ending at Trinity, where Father Richard offered prayers for peace, followed by a hospitality hour in the Buchanan Building and tours of the church and graveyard.

Renewing Historic Ties

On Saturday, May 17, Father Richard preached at the closing evensong of A Day in Old New Castle, Delaware, an annual house & garden tour benefitting Immanuel Church on the Green. Our two churches share a common history - both more than 300 years old, the Reverend Aeneas Ross served as rector of Trinity before transferring to Immanuel. Pictured here are Fathers Robÿn and Ross.

Summer Hours

In order to take advantage of cool temperatures and maximize attendance, there will be one service at 9am on Sundays during the summer months, from June 29 thru August 31. This change was very well received last year and even forged some new connections between parishioners who typically attend only one of the services. Also, please note that church office hours from Memorial Day thru Labor Day are Tuesday thru Thursday, 9am to 1pm.

Trinity Sunday & Picnic

Please join your parish family and neighbors in celebrating our 316 birthday on Trinity Sunday, June 15, with a festive choral Eucharist at 10am followed by our annual church picnic. This year, our picnic will be held in the churchyard and will include fun things for kids as well as a chance for people to check out the church building and our historic graveyard. Plus, Father Richard promises ice cream! Please visit our website for pictures of last year's festivities.

Vacation Coverage

I would like to thank Father Bob Solon for celebrating and preaching while I was away for two weeks in France last month. I hope everyone has some time to rest and recharge their batteries this summer. Bonne Vacances! Father Richard

Vestry Highlights

At the May meeting of the Vestry, Father Richard shared his vision for the coming year and we approved an iron gate which will secure the vestibule of the church in the most historically appropriate way. The next meeting of the Vestry will take place after coffee hour on Sunday, June 22.

Wedding Announcement

Amy Annand-Furlong and John Blakeley were married on Friday, June 6, by Father Richard at the Aldie Mansion in Doylestown. Congratulations to the happy couple! May God grant them many years!

Calendar and Your Feedback

Please visit our 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 also email any input for the September Trinitarian to me before August 20. Cheers, Pete (your Trinitarian editor)

Schedule of Events

Trinity Sunday, June 15, annual picnic after the 10am service in the churchyard

Sunday, June 22, Transfiguration Boy Choir from New York City serves during the 10am service

Sunday, June 22, Vestry meeting after coffee hour in the Buchanan Building

Sunday, June 29, summer hours begin, one service at 9am each Sunday

Wednesday, July 16, Calendar Meeting at 7pm in the Rector's office

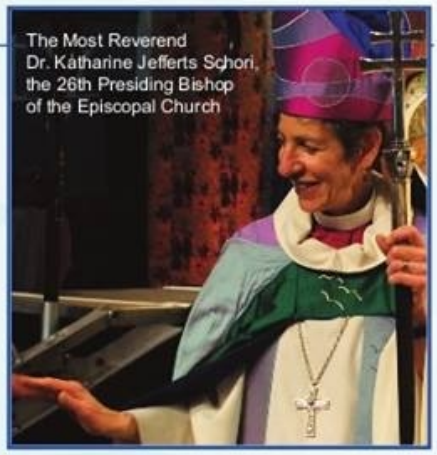
Saturday, July 26, 40th Anniversary of Women's Ordination, 3pm at Church of the Advocate

Thursday, August 7, Diocesan Night at the Phillies, Citizens Bank Park at 7:05pm

Sunday, September 7, Kickoff Sunday, return to 8am and 10am services, church school begins and we celebrate the rector's 5th anniversary at Trinity

40 Years Ordained

2000 YEARS IN MINISTRY


The Most Reverend
Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori,
the 26th Presiding Bishop
of the Episcopal Church

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday July 26, 2014

Celebrate the Ministry of All Women

on the occasion of
The 40th Anniversary of Women's Ordination

Symposium: *(register online)*

Held at Temple University in Philadelphia, the Symposium will begin at 8:30 am with registration & continental breakfast followed by the Keynote Address by seminary professor, author and scholar of Anglican theology and history, Dr. Fredrica Harris Thompsett, a Panel Discussion, Buffet Lunch, and Meditation led by The Rev. Dr. Nancy H. Wittig.

$40 per attendee - Register by July 1 *and SAVE*

(A limited number of full & partial scholarships are available. Submit an inquiry with your online registration.)

or $50 per attendee - Register July 2 through July 26

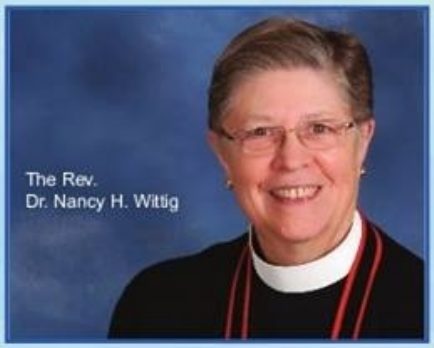
Keynote Address by
Dr. Fredrica Harris Thompsett

Holy Eucharist: *(all are welcome)*

3:00 pm service will be held at Church of the Advocate, the site of the original 1974 ordinations. The Most Reverend Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori presiding and preaching.
1801 W Diamond St, Philadelphia, PA

Reception & Ministry Exposé:

4:30 - 6:30 pm, Church of the Advocate campus
All are welcome to participate and display their baptismal ministry work. Please sign up online to reserve your space.


The Rev.
Dr. Nancy H. Wittig

Questions? Please contact the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania by phone 215.627.6434 or *Email The Rev. Beth W. Hixon at bhixon52@gmail.com.*

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