The Trinitarian

February 2010

Volume 1 Issue 6

News, Notes, and Inspiration from Trinity Church, Oxford

~Northeast Philadelphia's Neighborhood Parish Since 1698~

My Dear People,

As we enter one of the coldest and (thankfully) shortest months of the year, there is much to consider! The second day of February is the Feast of Candlemas. The fortieth day after Christmas, Candlemas commemorates the presentation of our Lord in the Temple, according to the Jewish Law, and of the ritual Purification of the Virgin Mary, also according to the Jewish Law. It is one of the celebrations of light (Christmas and Epiphany being the others) that occur at this time of year, when the days are shortest.

These feasts herald the coming of Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World. I will be attending Mass that evening at St. Clement's Church and invite any interested parishioners to join me. A carpool from Trinity can be arranged. The procession with candles, beautiful music, and prayers is quite moving.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. There will be two masses offered that day, with the imposition of ashes, at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm. The ashes are a reminder that we are but dust, and to dust shall we return. The beginning of this month is a good time to begin to put together a Lenten rule for yourself.

On Wednesdays during Lent, there will be several opportunities for worship. For those available in the daytime, we will have a simple celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am. In the evening, we will have a simple parish supper in the Buchanan Building followed by an inter-generational activity. The evening event begins at 6:00 pm and will conclude by 7:30 pm.

The clergy of the Pennypack Deanery are organizing a Lenten day of service at the soup kitchen of St. Mark's Frankfort on a Saturday in Lent, to be announced. Each parish in the deanery will be invited to sign up to contribute various foodstuffs and volunteers. We will meet at Trinity and drive over to St. Mark's, where we will cook and distribute the food. We will also interact with those we serve, and have a time for prayerful reflection afterward. It promises to be a rewarding day of service, and I invite all who are able to attend.

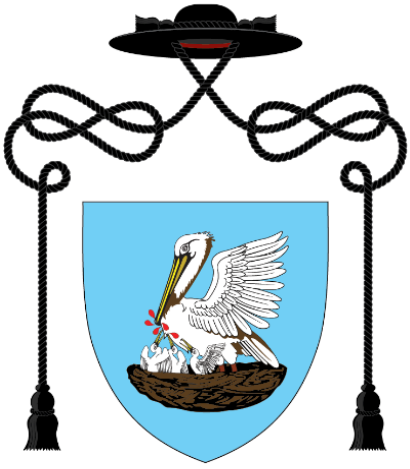
The last full week in February is the quarterly Ember week, when we turn our thoughts and prayers to those in ordained ministry, those studying for orders, and those discerning a call to ordained ministry.

Finally, thank you to everyone who helped make my 36th birthday so memorable. Your cards, well-wishes, and encouragement are very much appreciated, and I wish to give a special thank you to those who contributed to the discretionary fund in honor of my birthday. We are doing some very important work with that money here in Northeast Philly.

Affectionately, your Friend and Pastor,

Richard J. Robÿn

Fr. Richard J. Robÿn



Aid for Haiti Is Ongoing

Due to the unprecedented need brought about by the earthquakes in Haiti, our Lenten mite offerings will be directed to Episcopal Relief and Development.

If you wish to make a donation directly to ER-D, please visit www.er-d.org.

If you wish to make donations that are reflected in your Trinity account, please write your check to Trinity and place "Haiti" on the memo line. Trinity is sending a check to ER-D on February 7.

In the past, Trinity has sent aid to Haiti via the Sisters of Saint Margaret. They are doing great work under extremely difficult circumstances. You can help by visiting their web site: http://www.ssmbos.com/Pages/Haiti.html

Sincerely,

Fr. Robÿn, the Wardens, and the Vestry

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Parish News

Picture of the Month

Phil and Mark came prepared to take down the Christmas decorations. Separated at birth, or just a coincidence? You be the judge.

Vestry Highlights

At its January 19, 2009 stated meeting, Trinity's Vestry:

- Learned that Oxford Child Care Center, Inc. had nearly caught up with its rental payments to Trinity.
- Approved the 2010 Budget with a deficit of approximately $71,000.
- Proposed a change to the Vestry By-Laws reinstating the provision that Vestry members must attend at least 70% of all stated meetings, unless excused due to illness, in order to remain on the Vestry.

Respectfully submitted,

~L. Stephanie Smith, Vestry Member

The Pledge Report

Pledges Expected: Jan-Dec 2009	$85,000.00
Pledges Received: Jan-Dec 2009	$82,853.82
$ Shortfall	***$2,146.18***
% Shortfall	***2.53%***

GFS Week: Jan. 31-Feb. 7, 2010

The Girls' Friendly Society will celebrate GFS week from January 31st to February 7[7d], 2010. GFS week began in the late 60's and the purpose was to make the parishes aware of the mission and ministry of the organization. Trinity has celebrated this week in recent years by having the members of the organization participate in the service and by admitting the new members formally into the society. We hope that you will join us on January 31st when we admit two girls as junior members and one senior girl as a member of the society.

~Dottie Orr

Regarding the Rector

Ah, Father Robÿn's favorite past vacation was to Machu Picchu, Peru, a place I hope to see some day. If travel is a pleasure for him, let's find out what one of his guilty pleasures is.

Father Robÿn's Guilty Pleasure is

A. Old Cowboy Movies; Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Tom Mix, etc.

B. Strawberry and Coconut Ice Cream Sundaes.

C. Desperate Housewives

D. English Detective novels.

Father Knows

A Word About Liturgy...

You have no doubt noticed the variation in Liturgical practice undertaken during the Advent/ Christmas season. I wish to thank those of you who have shared with me both your positive approval and your constructive concerns.

The Western Christian tradition is a treasure trove of centuries' worth of worship practices, none of which could ever fit into the program of one parish church. With the liturgical renewal of the later half of the 20th Century came a much greater appreciation for these customs, and they are very much embodied in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and in other supplemental materials on offer from our Church.

Like the temperature and flora that surround us in the natural world, our liturgical practices change with the seasons to highlight the meaning of these seasons. Some are exuberantly joyful, others are somber and penitential. As the Church year unfolds with its many and sundry moods, so will our Sunday and Holy Day practices. I will do my best to teach the faith, and I invite you to continue the conversation with me so that together, we may all grow the knowledge and depth of our shared faith.

~*RJR*

The Ladies of Trinity

The Ladies of Trinity will be making soup at their meeting on Tuesday, February 9th, at 9 a.m. (**please note the different time from our regular monthly meetings**.) Please bring a knife and cutting board.

Lunch will be provided for those who participate.

In the coming months, the soup will be distributed to members of the parish who are ill, and families who are in need.

All women of the parish, of all ages, are invited to attend.

If you have any questions, please call Nellie Duddy at 215-745-3739

GFS Week: Jan. 31-Feb. 7, 2010

On Sunday, February 7th our GFS will participate in the international effort to refocus the world's biggest football weekend into a weekend of "loving God, loving our neighbor" known as the Souper Bowl of Caring. Please bring in at least one can of soup and give a monetary donation that day. The soup that is collected will be used in our own food cupboard and the money donated will go to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund to be used for victims of the earthquake in Haiti

The Souper Bowl began in the early 1990's and has raised over $75 million to feed the hungry. We thank you for your support for this project.

~*Dottie Orr*

Music Notes

As I write this article for the February Trinitarian, the wondrous sounds of our choirs are still etched in my memory. Their singing and ringing at Christmas was a wonderful gift to our parish and our visitors. And now we are about to embark on another journey as we begin the holy season of Lent.

I am reminded of a modern Christmas carol, "A Stable Lamp is Lighted", which foreshadows the approaching Lenten season. One of the verses of this hymn tells us "Yet, He shall be forsaken, And yielded up to die; the sky shall groan and darken, and every stone shall cry." These are profound words and we pray that as you listen to our music, our songs may always be prayers in your heart and on your lips.

Bell Choir rehearsals will resume in February, and the Junior Choir will continue singing an anthem on the first Sunday of the month. Our Senior Choir will be preparing for Lent and Easter, as well as a major choral work to be presented in March.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

~*Mary Sampson, Organist/ Choirmaster*

Diocesan News

Haiti Appeal From Bishop Michel

14 January, 2010

Dear Fellow Believers,

In Romans chapter 15 we read of the relief that first century Christians provided for fellow believers in Jerusalem who were having a rough time of it. Modern day believers are called to this high challenge and work of mercy as well. We can do no less.

Sister Adele Marie of the Sisters of St. Margaret reports on the devastating news from Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake which struck there. The Episcopal Cathedral and the Bishop's residence is gone, Holy Trinity School, the College St. Pierre (seminary) is gone as well as the Convent for the Sisters of St. Margaret and countless churches. The Diocese of Haiti is the largest in the Episcopal Church and Haiti is the poorest nation of the western hemisphere so the needs of the Church and the country are staggering.

I am asking all the faithful in our Diocese of Pennsylvania to prayerfully consider making an offering for the relief of our suffering sisters and brothers in the Church in Haiti. I humbly request the Reverend Clergy to have a second collection on two Sundays, January 17th and 24th, for this worthy work. Checks can be drawn to The Diocese of Pennsylvania with a notation marked for Haiti/ERD or funds can be sent directly to ERD. I urge all our churches to be open for prayer for the people of our communities....

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Rodney R. Michel, Assisting Bishop of Pennsylvania

To read the entire letter and to get up-to-the-minute information about the ongoing relief effort in Haiti, please visit www.diopa.org.

Bishop Appeals Church Court's Decision

By Mary Frances Schjonberg,
January 20, 2010

[Episcopal News Service] Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania Bishop Charles Bennison on Jan. 19 appealed a decision by an ecclesiastical trial court, asking that a 2008 ruling that the bishop engaged in conduct unbecoming a member of the clergy be overturned.

A Jan. 19 news release from Bennison's attorneys said the appeal to the Court of Review for the Trial of a Bishop argues that the charges stem from incidents that began more than 30 years ago and should never have come to trial. It also said that the Court for the Trial of a Bishop should not have called for Bennison to be deposed from the ordained ministry of the Episcopal Church because he was not involved in the sexual abuse.

A chronology of the Bennison case is available in this Sept. 25 ENS story.

– The Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg is ENS national correspondent and editor of Episcopal News Monthly.

Excerpts reprinted with permission from EpiscopalLife Online. For the complete article, visit: http://www.episcopalchurch.org/81803_118633_ENG_HTM.htm

National News

Five Goals for the Church's Future—Strategic Planning Survey Results

The results of the Episcopal Church's Strategic Planning survey, released on November 5, 2009, indicate that youth and young adults, evangelism and elements of congregational life are top on Episcopalian's suggestions for the future.

A total of 6,697 people responded to the Strategic Planning survey, which was circulated last summer....About 70% of the respondents were over 50 years old; no more than 15% were under 40.

...The majority clearly indicated that a "great effort" should be devoted to two particular areas: focusing on God's mission as the centerpiece of the church, and expanding efforts to reach younger generations.

The results also showed great emphasis on communications, mission outreach and inclusion of different voices, including "the 'multicultural' perspectives and persons...those of different ages, nontraditional lifestyles (particularly gays and lesbians), and also to those who hold contrasting theological positions...."

For the complete article, visit:

http://www.episcopal-life.org/documents/ENSW_insert_011010_eng_color_lettersize.pdf

National News—Continued

House of Deputies Committee Addresses Vitality of the Church

There are underlying indications of vitality in The Episcopal Church despite signs the church is "swimming against some difficult cultural tides," according to Matilda Kistler, chair of the House of Deputies State of the Church Committee.

The House of Deputies State of the Church Committee [was] founded in 1808, and [is] the most long-functioning General Convention committee within The Episcopal Church.... The Committee is charged with reporting on the vitality, functioning and overall well-being of the church every three years.

While the average pledge to local congregations increased to $2,302 in 2008, overall income decreased, according to the statistics.

Statistics released by the Episcopal Church Center indicate that domestic church membership declined by 2.8 percent in 2008. Overall church membership — including 10 non-U.S. dioceses — was down 2.6 percent. Average Sunday attendance at worship services declined 3.1 percent within the US, while the attendance dropped 2.7 percent for the entire church.

She pointed out that previous eras of difficulty in church history have led "to periods of reflection, focus, recommitment to mission and ultimately growth in the community of faith. I think we are on the brink of seeing a transformation within the Body of Christ in general, and in the Episcopal Church in particular."

For the complete article, visit:

http://www.episcopal-life.org/documents/ENSW_insert_011710_eng_color_lettersize.pdf

World News

SHAKEN TO THE BONE, CALLED TO RESPOND

By Katharine Jefferts Schori

The world has been turned upside down, as the bones of the earth have shifted underneath Haiti. We are reminded of life's fragility and unpredictability as we watch the news reports and see the devastation of human lives.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere; 80 percent of her people live on less than $2 a day. Even before this earthquake, she struggled to provide for her poor.

The Episcopal Diocese of Haiti...before this disaster, counted between 100,000 and 120,000 members in 169 congregations served by just 37 clergy.

Since its founding in 1804 as the first African-led nation in the Western Hemisphere, and the first resulting from the rebellion of former slaves, Haiti has experienced disaster after disaster, both natural and political. Until now, hurricanes have been the most frequent riders of the apocalyptic horse.

The Episcopal Diocese of Haiti is among the largest in our church. Before this disaster, the diocese counted between 100,000 and 120,000 members in 169 congregations served by just 37 clergy. The diocese has been a major force for human well-being in all senses — spiritual, emotional, intellectual, cultural and physical.

Resourceful and spirit-filled Haitian Episcopalians served more than 80,000 children in 254 diocesan educational institutions, from preschool to college.

The diocese sponsored Haiti's only philharmonic orchestra and its only schools for disabled children and nursing. The Hôpital de Sainte Croix provided community health services for the Leogane region.

Two vocational training institutes supplied Haiti with auto mechanics, computer technicians and business managers. Development programs helped rural communities toward food security by raising rabbits and sharing plows.

This earthquake flattened the cathedral and its surrounding buildings, including schools and a convent; it destroyed the bishop's home and the diocesan offices.

One of the diocese's institutions of higher education is gone. As I write this in mid-January, we don't know the condition of other institutions. Several churches were destroyed.

The work of rebuilding lives, diocesan institutions and the fabric of the nation will take years. The Episcopal Church — all of it — will be vital in that effort.

–The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori is presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church.

Excerpt printed with permission from EpiscopalLife Online. For the complete article, please visit: http://www.episcopal-life.org/80050_118546_ENG_HTM.htm

Worship, Education, Outreach, & Events

Sunday Mass Schedule and Bible Readings

People of all faith traditions, even none at all, are welcome to attend Mass at Trinity. Please join us!

Sundays:

7:30 am Morning Prayer

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (spoken)

10:00 am Holy Eucharist (with choir)

Sunday School for children is available

February Lesson Calendar

These are the Bible readings appointed for the Sundays in February.

Feb. 7: VI Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8, [9-13]
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 14: Last Sunday After the Epiphany

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]

Feb. 21: I Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Feb. 28: II Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

Lenten Worship and Study at TCO

Sunday 2/14: Soup making by Church School
Sunday 2/21: Burying Alleluias by Church School

Wednesdays:
2/17 Ash Wed.:

- 10:00 am & 7:00 pm ~ Mass with imposition of ashes
- 6:00 pm light supper prepared by Church School

2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24:

- 10:00 am ~ Mass
- 6:00 pm Worship (Buchanan Bldg.)
- 6:20 pm Supper
- 7:00 pm Inter-generational Program and Activity

We will be reflecting on the seven last words of Christ and how they impact our lives.

Outreach Events

Alcoholics Anonymous Mtgs: Sunday Nights, 7:00PM-9:30 PM; Location: Buchanan Building.

Narcotics Anonymous Mtgs: Friday Nights, 7:30PM-9:00PM; Saturday Nights, 12:00 MIDNIGHT—Location: Buchanan Building.

Events at Trinity

- **Bell Choir:** Rehearsals in the Church on Thursday evenings from 7:30 pm-8:15 pm—Feb. 4, 11, 25 *Rehearsal after the 7 pm Mass on 2/17
- **GFS:** Meets in the Children's House from 7pm-8:30 pm—Feb. 9 & 23
- **Jr. Choir:** Rehearsals in the Church after the Sunday 10 am Mass—Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28
- **Ladies of Trinity:** Soup Making in Buchanan Building—***Time Change: 9 am**
- **Sr. Choir:** Rehearsals in the Buchanan Building on Sundays at 8:45 am; Sing at the 10 am Mass—Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28; *Sing at 7pm Ash Wed. Mass
- **Property Committee:** Wednesday, January 13, in the Buchanan Building at 7pm
- **The Trinitarian:** Submissions for the March issue are due Feb. 8, 2010 to: trinitarianeditor@yahoo.com
- **Vestry Meeting:** Mon., Feb. 17—Buchanan Bldg. at 7pm
- **Vestry Symposium:** Sat., Feb. 6 from 8:15 am to 12 noon at Good Samaritan, Paoli
- **Wardens' Meeting**: Feb. 9 in the Church Office at 9:30 am
- **Wedding:** Yuhnke-Tuttle Wedding at 4pm

Odds & Ends

Additional Advent and Christmas Memorials

FLOWERS: **Judy Santianni** "Merry Christmas Trinity" • **NK Achike** in loving memory of Rose Achike and in thanksgiving for Odina Rose Achike • **The Geliebters** in loving memory of loved ones • **Shirley Dougherty** in loving memory of Al and Helen Jones, James E. Dougherty and Al Jones, Sr. • **The Geliebters** in loving memory of loved ones • **John and Maureen Lee** in loving memory of their son, John E. Lee.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS MUSIC: **Father Richard Robÿn** in thanksgiving for ALL past rectors of Trinity Church, Oxford • **Judy Santianni** in loving memory of Kryn Westhoven • **Jessica Kasinski** in loving memory of her grandmother, Maria Hosszu • **Joan E. Annand** in thanksgiving for my family • **NK Achike** in loving memory of D. Jerome and Adaora Henry, and John Fredericks • **The Geliebters** in thanksgiving for the Birth of Christ.

Holiday House

Owned & Operated by GFS/PA

WANTED:

Manager, Assistant Manager, Assistant Cooks, Cleaning Person, & Working Associates

www.gfspaholidayhouse.org

Your Retreat home in Cape May, NJ is looking for a few skilled, community service–oriented individuals to work at Holiday House in the 2010 Summer season!!!

Applicants for Management positions must be 18+ years, and possess strong service skills. Start/Finish dates are adjustable based on availability:
June & September (weekends only),
July and August (full weeks).

Contact: Nancy Myshko 610-213-0495 for details!

The Banns

I hereby publish the banns of marriage between

Scott Theodore Yuhnke

and

Laurie Michelle Tuttle.

If anyone knoweth any reason why this marriage ought not to take place, thou art bidden to declare it.

This is the third time of asking.

The Rev'd Richard J. Robÿn

Thank You

Thanks to all who again donated gifts and money for out Outreach projects in December. Those at ECS and the Philadelphia Protestant Home were most appreciative of our support.

Church School children parents and staff for their hard work in making the Christmas Pageant a tremendous success.

Trinity Church, Oxford

Located at Longshore and Oxford Avenues

Trinity Church, Oxford (office)
6901 Rising Sun Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19111

Phone: 215-745-611
Fax: 215-745-1258
E-mail: trinitychurchoxford@gmail.com

The Church Building is Wheelchair Accessible

As one body in Christ, we invite people of all faiths, even those of no faith, to join us in our worship services.

7:30 AM	Morning Prayer
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist

Church School

10:00 AM Classes during the academic year.

Postage here

Address Label

Our Mission

Our mission is to follow our Lord Jesus Christ and to spread His Gospel; to seek and to serve God in all persons; to worship in the Episcopal tradition; to respect our colonial heritage; and to share our gifts and resources with others.

Visit us on the web!

www.trinitychurchoxford.org

Our Staff

The Reverend Richard J. Robÿn, *Rector*
Mary Sampson, M.A., *Organist/ Choirmaster*
Chris Claypoole, *Secretary*
Michael Pacillio, *Sexton*

Our Vestry

Dorothy Orr ('10), *Rector's Warden*
Judith Maile ('12), *Accounting Warden*
Lorraine Henry ('11), *Secretary*
Lynne Geliebter ('12)
Angela Lyons ('11)
Pamela McCracken ('12)
Robert Miller ('12)
Jeffrey Pyle ('10)
L. Stephanie Smith ('10)
Melinda Weaver ('11)
Lois Annand, *Treasurer*

Interim Trinitarian Editor

L. Stephanie Smith,
trinitarianeditor@yahoo.com

Lenten Worship and Study at Trinity

Sunday 2/14: Soup making by Church School
Sunday 2/21: Burying Alleluias by Church School

Wednesdays:
2/17 Ash Wed.:

- 10:00 am & 7:00 pm ~ Mass with imposition of ashes
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