
THE TRINITY MESSENGER

Volume 35, Issue 4

Trinity Episcopal Church Newsletter

April 2007

Letter to the Parish

Dear Friends,

There is so much going on at Trinity these days! Our children and youth programs are busy and full of activity and learning, our new 9:00 family service continues to welcome people for whom our traditional worship is too demanding (especially toddlers); our Ton of Food Lenten food drive is a roaring success and will feed many hungry people in our town this spring; the Caring for Creation committee is planning some events for later in April and, of course, Holy Week and Easter approach with the poignant remembrances of Jesus' final earthly ministry and the celebration of his resurrection as only we can do it at Trinity.

I hope that you will find many occasions in the months to come to nourish your soul and feed your sense of our common life. As the very first hints of spring poke their heads through the snow banks, may your faith and love of God come to a new life. In the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby we are assured that nothing that we suffer or do can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, may we be strengthened to bear that love to a hurting world. May our lives bring joy and light and life to others.

Blessings to you all this holiest of seasons, and my love,

Ellen

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Child Care begins Sunday mornings at 7:45am in the Nursery and is available throughout all Worship Services.

9:00am Family Worship Service

*service is held each Sunday
that Church School is in session.*

The service is focused toward families with young children and is an informal celebration of the Eucharist that includes child-friendly prayers, abbreviated lessons and a short homily geared for family reflection. Simple joyful music.

Church School:

During Lent our church school children and their families are participating in the **Ton of Food** by designing one meal a week into a **low cost or meatless meal**. Each classroom has an area outside their door to place the can goods each week. We will keep track of the number of pounds for each class. Maybe some families that don't have church school children might want to join us! Just deposit your can goods in the back of the Church during Lent. Monies donated will help buy the necessary items to complete the meal.

We also have available ideas to bring **Lent into the home**. They are located on the table just outside the Church School area. All of the resources are free and we encourage you to take any that might seem appropriate for you and your family. This practice will continue through the end of our program year with ideas for the Easter and Pentecost seasons as well as ideas to continue your faith at home during the summer months.

Curriculum focuses in this 4th Unit of ECC are: Shortly after Easter our church school will begin it's final unit for our program year. Themes for this unit are: P.K. bible stories after the Resurrection, K/1~We Are the Church, 2/3~Church in the New Testament, and 4-6~The Apostle Paul. Specific weekly lessons will be detailed and available on the Parent's Resource Table.

resume on Sunday, April 15th as we prepare for our last Fifth Sunday of the program year, on Sunday April 29th.

On Palm Sunday, April 1, there will be NO 9:00 AM service. Church School will begin at 9:30 as normal. We will be making green tissue paper palms branches in each classroom to use in the **Road to Jerusalem Procession prior to the 10:30AM service**. The children will don costumes at the end of class and will meet in the Chapel. All will go up together for the **Blessing of the Palms**. Once they are blessed we will move outside and line the walkway in the courtyard. As the choir and church participants pass through we will yell "Hosanna, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, or Hosanna in the Highest" When all have processed through we will go back to the Chapel to leave the costumes. Those who would like to stay (any age) can stay and participate in our **Chapel program** where we will be focusing on the events of Holy Week leading up to Easter. At approximately the "Sign of the Peace" all will join their parents. If you have any questions please feel free to ask a teacher about this program.

Easter Rejoicing Children's Program April 8, during part of the 10:30AM Service- Our children (up to age 10) are invited to join us in the church school area. We will be hearing about Easter through storytelling, song, and movement, a craft activity, and an Easter Egg Hunt. All children will also help "Flower the Cross" which will be presented at the offering as their thank you for the wonderful gift God has given us. The program will take place during the Liturgy of the Word with your children joining you at the Sign of the Peace to partake in the first Eucharist of Easter.

Holy Week and Easter Family and Children Opportunities

There are many opportunities to participate in the life of our community here at Trinity during Holy Week and the Easter Season. All families of children and youth will shortly receive a letter detailing the services and events during Holy Week and Easter which are designed to be inclusive of children and youth. Please take a moment to review the letter and enclosures so you can become familiar with the opportunities for you to enhance you and your family's Easter worship. If you have not received the letter please contact the office and they can email or mail you a copy. Also if you have any questions please feel free to contact the Office.

Church School- There will be no formal church school classes on Easter Sunday but our Easter Rejoicing Program is open to all children. Church School will

Fifth Sunday, Sunday April 29 during the 10:30AM Service: Many classes have already begun to plan, design, and practice their parts in what has become a very meaningful, spirit-filled Sunday worship experience for all ages. Please do plan to attend Church School on **April 22nd** for our final preparations and on April 29th as we celebrate.

Journey to Adulthood Youth Program

Rite 13 group, our youngest youth group has designed our new pascal candle. It is beautiful. A special thanks to that group for their work.

J2A Pilgrims continuing to work on their program curriculum while plans are beginning to be finalized for their pilgrimage this summer. The group will be leaving for Santa Barbara, Calif. to learn about the Spanish missions, the life of a missionary, and the effect of the missionaries on the Native Americans in the area, on Tuesday July 31st and will return on Tuesday Aug. 7th. Our parent's group is planning a wine tasting evening on Friday, May 11th. More details to follow in Worship Bulletins and our next Messenger.

Our oldest group of youth, **YACs**, are meeting monthly on the 2nd Sunday of the month, (next meeting April 15 because of Easter). All past pilgrims are invited to join in. Each month's activity and meal is designed by members of the group. This group is also confirming a **mission trip** for this July to New Orleans to work on the relief effort after Hurricane Katrina. More information about this trip will be out in our next Messenger. Any questions about our meetings or the trip please call the Office and we will contact the appropriate teen.

Graduates: Many of our YACs will be graduating from High School this spring. There may be others that are graduating from other programs. We would like to include them as we honor these young people. If you know of someone please call the office so we may include them in our celebration of their accomplishments.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Women's Eve-ning On the third Friday of each month from 7-9 PM, the women of Trinity gather in the Undercroft chapel for social time, study, refreshments and discussion. The next meeting is planned for Friday, April 20. **NOTE: This meeting will be held in the Library/Upper Parish** Please join us for an evening of fellowship, exploration of the topic in the Bible and the relevancy to our lives today.

Grief and Spirituality: on the first Wednesday of every month, at 6:30 p.m., Trinity's ongoing grief and bereavement group meets. It's a group with a flexible agenda and flexible membership—feel free to come one time or fifty as you may have need. If you plan to attend, please call the parish office by 3:00 that day to let us know you are coming. Next meeting Wednesday, April 4.

Rhythms of Grace Our service for special needs children, their caregivers and families, continues the first Sunday of the month at 1 PM in the Undercroft Chapel. Rhythms of Grace is coordinated and celebrated each month by Linda Snyder, our Director of Children's and Youth Ministries; Erik and Helen Ann Landgraf, Special Education Ministers; and a clergy member. Our next service is Sunday, April 1.

Book Discussion Group The following books have been chosen for discussion during the next several months. There is plenty of time to join the bandwagon. Many of our new dates fall on Tues. or Wed. in the hope that choir members might be tempted to join us. The discussions are fun. We serve tea and meet at 7:30pm at church. All of these books have been extremely well reviewed in the press. They are out in paperback and available at your local library.

Rescheduled, Tuesday April 10 Acts of Faith by Philip Caputo. This novel takes place in the 1990's during the Sudan civil war. We see Americans who are providing aid to the region, but are thwarted by the war itself, a slave trade and corruption. "Caputo's devastating novel is a parable about American idealism and the dangers of missionary zeal" writes the N.Y. Times

Date to be determined Arthur and George by Julian Barnes explores the relationship between Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, and George Edalji, a man he is trying to save from a miscarriage of justice in 19th century Britain.

Tues. May15 The Great Fire by Shirley Hazzard concerns a story that takes place during World War II and follows an American major who is sent to Hiroshima to study the effects of the bomb explosions on the Japanese culture.

Questions and Theology This group is open to anyone interested in exploring what's new in the talk of God and God's action in The World. The next meeting date is to be determined. Please prepare by reading *The Phoenix Affirmations* by Eric Elnes.

UPCOMING EVENTS/SAVE THE DATE

Trinity Fundraiser Scrip Pre-Paid Cards.. Order your cards BETWEEN worship services in the Upper Parish Hall, or DURING THE WEEK by visiting the Parish Office. If you're able to help in this effort, speak to Tammy Randall or The Rector.

Stephen Ministry Supervision and Continuing Education Program will meet on Tuesday evenings. Next meeting is Tuesday, February 6 and February 20. Next months meetings are March 6 and March 20.

Sunday, April 1

1:00pm **Rhythms of Grace Service** Chapel
7:00pm **Vespers Service**(Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday)

Thursday, April 10

7:30pm **Book Group Acts of Faith** by Philip Caputo-Living Room

Monday, April 16

7:30pm **Vestry Meeting** Upper Parish

Wednesday, April 18

12:30pm **Souper Seniors** Upper Parish Hall

Friday, April 20

7:00pm **Women's EVE-ning** Library

Saturday, April 21

9:00am **Men's Breakfast** - Upper Parish

Sunday, April 22

12:00pm - Caring for Creation Program

viewing the inspiring film "Is God

Green?"

COME AND SHARE
LENT & EASTER
WITH US

Palm Sunday April 1

8:00 & 10:30am

*Holy Eucharist &
Palm Procession*

Wednesday, April 4

8pm

Tenebrae Service

Monastic service of readings & music in
the shadows of the sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday, April 5

5:45pm

Parish gathering in Upper Parish Hall
followed by Seder Dinner in Upper Parish
Hall. All Trinity Parish members and their
friends are invited to attend.

If you are attending please call parish office,
482-6027.

8pm

*Holy Eucharist &
Foot Washing*

Good Friday, April 6

from 12:00 - 3:00pm

The Seven Words

Readings, meditations & hymns

** participate as your schedule allows*

Easter Eve, Saturday, April 7

8:00pm

The Great Vigil

First Celebration of the Resurrection

Easter Day, Sunday, April 8

at 8:00 & 10:30am

Jazz Mass for the Resurrection

* * * * *

Trinity Parish...You and your family
are invited to a Seder Dinner

in the Upper Parish Hall on

Maundy Thursday, April 5, 2007

Gathering in the Upper Parish Hall at 5:45pm

We ask that you arrive promptly.

Child care is available in our Nursery during the
Seder Dinner. In addition, there will be a supervised
children's table with activities focusing on the
Passover Story.

The Seder Dinner and child care is offered at no
charge.

The evening begins at 5:45pm with the gathering of the
Parish in the Upper Parish Hall for light hors d'oeuvres. We
ask that you arrive promptly.

For those who haven't joined us at the Seder in the past,
you may ask 'what is it'? The evening tells the story of the
Passover and uses prayer, story and symbolic foods to
remember God's saving acts at the Exodus. Participants
enjoy a meal prepared by Trinity's staff as part of the
celebration. We hope you and your family will be able to
join us. The Seder will end approximately at 7:45pm.

A service of Holy Eucharist and Foot Washing
follows the Seder Dinner at 8:00pm.

RSVP - no later than Monday, April 2

Please sign-up in the Upper Parish or call the Parish
office, 482-6027.

HERE AT TRINITY

Family News: Do you have some that you would like to share in the Messenger with the Parish?? If so, please submit in written form to the Parish Office or via email to trinity.parish.house@snet.net.

Communion at Worship Celiac disease affects as many as 1 in 133 people. At Trinity we have been happy to consecrate rice wafers for communion for persons who suffer from this genetic intolerance and offer our own wheat-free wafers on request. We welcome everyone to the Lord's table. If you need communion in this form, please speak with our clergy.

Don't forget to wear your name button on Sunday, and leave it in the church for the next week!

Altar Flowers/Easter Holiday Memorials The Parish Office will gladly accept your donations for Easter Memorials throughout the season of Lent. Donations for music will go towards the cost of special soloists or other musical artists. Please indicate on your check in the memo section, your choice— flowers or music and the name of your loved one. Donation envelopes are available in back of church and in the Parish Hall. Donations may be placed in the collection plate or mailed to the Parish Office.

The Men's Breakfast Group... are looking for a few good men to join them for a hot breakfast and assist them with some fix-up projects on April 21. Breakfast at 9am, followed by some work hoping to end by noon. Many hands make light work. Joseph and Jesus were carpenters, so I'm sure they would appreciate our efforts to clean up the wood at Trinity! Please speak to Conrad for more info.

Planning for Trinity's Future - 2007 Survey

Last Fall more than 120 Parishioners participated in living room meetings during which they presented the following ideas for Trinity's future. Please help set Trinity's priorities by taking a few moments to fill out this survey and returning it to Trinity by mail, e-mail or dropping it off at the office or in back of the Church. Your input is important! Please find the survey

Message from Caring for Creation...

CARING FOR CREATION NEWS:

Mark your calendars for viewing an inspiring film on Sunday April 22 at 12 noon at Trinity. "Is God Green?" is a superb program that is part of the *Moyers in America* PBS TV series. It is making ripples around the U.S. from churches to citizens concerned about the environment. The PBS website describes this film (1 hour long):

"Is God Green?" explores how a serious split among conservative evangelicals over the environment and global warming could reshape American politics. For years liberal Christians and others have made protection of the environment a moral commitment. Now a number of conservative evangelicals are joining the fight, arguing that stewardship of the planet is a biblical imperative and calling for action to stop global warming. But they are being met head-on by opposition from traditional evangelicals who adamantly support the Bush administration in downplaying the threat of global warming and other environmental perils. The political stakes are high: Three out of every four white evangelical voters chose George W. Bush in 2004."

* * * * *

**Help Wanted
Trinity needs you!**

The following volunteer positions are open.

Free training provided.

Call the Office – 482-6027 to sign up

Coffee Hour Hosts/Hostesses – all services

This is a fun job in which you get to meet people and make them feel at home at Trinity. Make sure coffee, tea and supplies are ready after and between services. Talk to new comers. Clean up afterwards. Helen Ann & Erik Landgraf are in charge and will train you.

The Having More Fun Together Committee

This new group is headed up by Marci & Jim Allen and is dedicated to promoting 3 events per year at which we get together just to enjoy each other, and have a good time. Marci & Jim are looking for ideas as well as people to carry the ideas out.

HELP! – VOLUNTEER!- HELP! – VOLUNTEER!

Parish News

Deaths

Rachel Freeman Saint, Jo Anne Theresa Sloan

*"Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light
perpetual shine upon them."*

