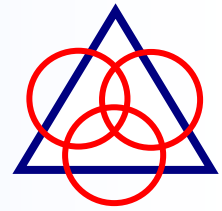


THE TRINITY TRUMPET



January 2010

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Sunday Service 10 AM

A New Year To Manifest Christ

Celebration, excitement, noisemaking - It's how we bring in a new year! I wonder... why do we celebrate the new year with such gusto worldwide, like a birthday but on a grand scale? The optimist in me hopes it doesn't just give folks a good excuse to have a party. Maybe we celebrate because we are given a fresh year full of potential and mystery. What will happen is anyone's guess. A new year full of possibilities, a fresh slate, a blank calendar to begin again and to fill in. I think that's why we make New Year's resolutions. It seems a natural time to both reflect back on our year and to look forward and then to take what steps we can to make a future we hope for a reality.

As we find ourselves at the beginning of a calendar year, into winter, and just past the shortest day of the year with days that will gradually grow longer, we find ourselves in a new season of our liturgical calendar as well. Just as we have growing light in our days, the light of Christ drew near through Advent, broke into our world and shone around us during the 12 Days of Christmas and this week we enter the season after the Epiphany. A season that will last up until Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

Epiphany means appearance or manifestation, especially of a divine being. The Epiphany, celebrated on January 6th celebrates the fact that Christ's divine nature was made manifest to the Magi or wise men, and since they traveled from a distant country they were not Jewish, so even at the beginning of his life, the Christ Child is revealed to gentiles, signifying that his appearing as "God with us" is meant for us all, not for a select few.



Serving hot drinks during Candlewalk

As we move into Epiphany and hear stories of times in which Christ's divine nature was made manifest to us such as his baptism or at the wedding at Cana and find ourselves at the start of a new year we can think about Christ made manifest. We can take note that there are many people around us – family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances, even strangers, perhaps most especially strangers, who need Christ to be made manifest in their lives. They may be troubled, anxious, sick, hurting, or perhaps full of questions or even joyful, but somehow are in need of Christ's love, kindness, reconciliation, compassion, peace, or hope. I believe Christ is made manifest through us as individuals as well as through the many ministries of the faith community that is Trinity all the time. Each time someone starts cancer treatment and receives a chemo cap, for each person seeking sobriety who discovers a local meeting, for each person served a meal at St. Andrew's, and in many, many ways. So now is a time to reflect on how God has been at work through us, and to think about the ways we can continue to make Christ manifest to others.

Epiphany Blessings and Happy New Year!

Lori

SENIOR WARDEN NOTES

January 2010

Another year begins and as is true with most church communities, our church leaders turn their thoughts and efforts to the typical actions of reviewing vision and mission statements and establishing goals for the upcoming year.

As it has been the past number of years, church growth will again be one of our discussion points and goals in 2010. In the past, I feel this has been a cursory statement that I'm not sure was ever truly taken seriously. With each passing year came another reason or excuse (I'm as guilty as anyone) not to put the effort needed to move forward with our growth. We've consistently thought; "When we have this or done that, then we will be in a better position to recruit and grow our membership." I believe the excuses are now gone and it is time for **all** of us come together and do whatever we can to increase and grow our membership.

We now have a very capable pastoral musician; Reverend Lori has grown and been able to "get the lay of the land" and will soon complete a second year with us, more programs have been implemented, physical plant improvements have been made, membership has been allowed to share their thoughts and dreams, we have sent a group to a church growth conference and have enough "church growth" materials available to us to fill a library.

Growth will not come easy and it is going to take a dedicated and organized effort incorporating all our resources and all that we have learned, researched, read and more. It is no secret that the Episcopal Church as a whole has been in decline for a number of years and national church actions that are usually exaggerated in news publications have not helped. But through it all, I believe God has a plan and a future for Trinity and the local community is a better place because of Trinity.

Led by Michael Busch, a small group of Trinity members have met and began to put together a document (*Report on Evangelism and Church*

Growth) to help us understand who we are and where we have been, what are our challenges, where do we need to go, who it is we should be reaching out to and suggested goals for the upcoming year. The reason and needs for our growth are obvious, but I will share the rationale as stated in the document.

"In recent years Trinity has experienced a significant decrease in membership. If Trinity is to continue in its current state, it will be necessary to draw new members in order to maintain a full-time rector, church musician, and maintain the life of the congregation. Furthermore, the age of the congregation, many of which are of retirement age, indicate that the congregation needs to attract younger members to sustain the church in future years."

Our situation is certainly not unique to main stream churches and the biggest question is HOW? How do we get our story out? How do we reach those we target? How do we get visitors (guests) in our doors? Once inside, how do we share our story with them? How do we follow-up with our guests? How do we make everyone (newcomers and current membership) feel a part of Trinity? How do we fill the spiritual needs of all? How, how, how....?

From the Rector and Senior Warden on down to the newest and youngest members, we all can play a role in our growth. All must be willing to share ideas, attend and support church functions and activities, reach out to newcomers, assist when able and most of all provide support and prayer with these efforts.

Certainly more is to follow and Trinity leadership will do what we can to keep you updated and involved.

Thank you for a wonderful 2009 and I look forward to a busy and fruitful 2010.

We are CALLED, in fellowship, TO LOVE AND SERVE God by reaching out and sharing the good news!"

Yours in Christ, Norb

Candlewalk, 2009

by Sharon Krueger with input from Rebecca Jess

Would Trinity participate in the 2009 Candlewalk. That was a major cause for debate. First participation was "on", then it "off". The folks in favor called attention to the fact that the hay wagon would be turning in Trinity's driveway, those against participating said we did not have enough time to get ready.

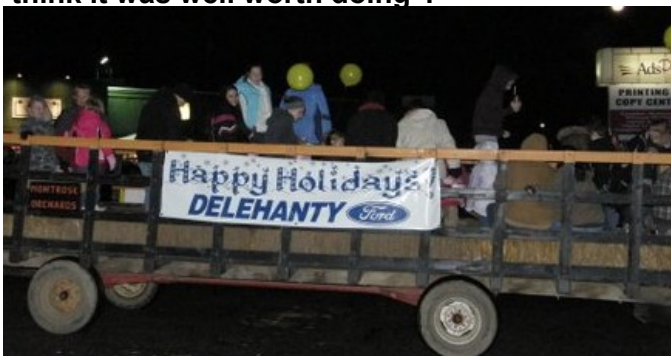
Encouraged by Rebecca Jess, I, decided to go for it. Rebecca and I made a plan by phone and email. I bought the supplies and enlisted Jim Dietrich to set up the tent, Rebecca also got some supplies and recruited the workers.

It was slow going as the Candlewalk got underway. First the wagon did not turn in the proper place. Well, Rev. Lori took care of that, she met the wagon on it's 4th trip and showed the driver where to turn! Business picked up right away with the wagon drivers being the best customers.

It is impossible to calculate the results of such an endeavor. The reason Rebecca and I decided it was something we needed to do is that it would be better to be in the church driveway with hot drinks and conversation than to have the hay wagon turning in a cold, dark driveway.

Approximately 200 cups of yummy hot chocolate and cider were given out each evening. Yes, it was cold, the church was open for warm-ups.

Rebecca and Claire were out in the cold both nights and they want to thank all the folks that helped out. Rebecca's statement on the event, "I think it was well worth doing".



The haywagon brought many cold people



Lots of happy recipients of hot chocolate & cider

The famous Trinity hand chime choir performed downtown. What fun!



Outreach request

Outreach is collecting blankets to be given away to the needy. St. Andrew's would also like the aprons and the dishcloths so many of you knit, so get going with those needles.

Thank you to all

EVANGALISM: ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF WALKING THE TALK

An excerpt from a Detroit News article about MSU's quarterback.

With all the personnel losses, Cousins embraces the pressure to perform against the Red Raiders and reminds his peers that most of this team remains intact.

"I hope he's not within an earshot to hear this, but he's so darn valuable to this team," fifth-year senior center Joel Nitchman said during the team's bowl media day. "I'm older, but I still look up to him big-time."

There are several reasons Cousins is held in such high regard by his teammates. He's known as a motivator who can give fiery pregame speeches and lead postgame and post-practice prayer. He also has earned respect for not forcing his beliefs on others.

Those teammates interested in Christianity often accompany Cousins to church, even after Saturday football losses. Some participate in offseason Bible [studies](#) at his apartment.

Posthuma believes Cousins has been an invaluable resource to his church because of his low-key, yet passionate delivery of God's word.

In addition to [football](#) players, Cousins also has recruited MSU athletes from other sports, including wrestling and basketball, to Trinity's services.

"He's not out there screaming it and banging people over the head with it," Posthuma said about Cousin's efforts to represent his faith. "He's living it, and when you see people like that, there's a tendency to want to know what it's all about."

(from JCarlsen's ENote)



TRINITY RECEIVES THANKS!

Trinity's Outreach Commission donated the funds recently for Meijer gift cards for Hurley oncology who had needs not covered by any other means --food, medicine, clothing, gas, etc. The amounts were small but took care of immediate needs such as bread, milk, underwear, Tylenol and so forth. At this writing, ten lives have been touched and helped. Patients and families are grateful and know that Trinity has helped to fill a small need.

As I was walking down a Hurley hall recently I was carrying one of the fleece chemo caps. Some nurses noticed and asked where I got it. I explained that a volunteer had made it. They whipped out paper and pens and quickly made patterns just as we have at Trinity. When I came back from seeing a patient, they had patterns completed and were discussing where the best buys on fleece could be found. "Who makes these?" I said some members at Trinity made the patterns and scoured the stores for fleece. So once again Trinity received thanks for the help and encouragement given to patients! Vause Carlsen

Annual Meeting

Sunday January 17th

Immediately after the service

A wish list for the Nursery

The nursery has been cleaned and looks very inviting and cheerful, but we are missing toys for children to play with especially boys. The other supplies are very old. We are posting some ideas for donations. Please consider helping.

- Nursery Wish List**
- Washable crayons/markers
 - Playdough
 - Plastic trucks/cars
 - Puzzles
 - Paper/ Etch -a-sketch
 - Puppets/ soft dollies
 - Blocks/duplo blocks
 - Baby toys

Spaghetti Dinner



Friday Jan 22nd

600 p.m.

Sign up sheet in the lounge

Ministry	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
Altar Guild	Fay Kenrick (Chair) 659-4770 Ann James Linda Niedecken	Same	Same	Same	Same
Acolyte	Tori Lockhart	Austin Boulter	Claire Jess	Tori Lockhart	Austin Boulter
Lector/Chalice	Larry Elder	Ed Henneke	Larry Elder	Shirley St. John	Ed Henneke
Greeters	Lynnette Pepler	Kathy Boulter	Elaine Martin	Lynnette Pepler	Kathy Boulter
Ushers	Jack Carlsen Don Erickson	Dennis Pickard Nancy Pickard	Rebecca Jess John Rowe	Jane Rousseau Don Erickson	Jack Carlsen John Rowe
Kids Word	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	N/A
Coffee Hour	Jim & Mary Dietrich	Jack Carlsen Eileen Nagy	Larry & Pam Elder	Dennis & Nancy Pickard	Ralph & Linda Niedecken
Eucharistic Visitor	Vause Carlsen or Lori Johnson	Ed Henneke or Lori Johnson	Vause Carlsen	Ed Henneke	Vause Carlsen or Lori Johnson

Birthdays:


- Norb Birchmeier Jan 4
- Dave Krueger Jan 6
- Jack Carlsen Jan 10
- Dorothy West Jan 14
- Debbie Josling Jan 17
- Jane Rousseau Jan 19
- Lisa Josling Jan 20
- Ann James Jan 25
- Ed Henneke Jan 28
- Beth Michels Jan 31

God bless you on your special day

Anniversaries:

- Larry & Pam Elder Jan 20
- Ed & Donna Henneke Jan 24

Let's Play



Thursday


January 21st

in the Salay Room

7 PM

You don't know how to play?
No problem we will teach you

Guitar Class



Tuesdays 7:00pm

Starting Jan 12

They will last for 8 weeks

There is still room for more. To be part of the fun call Jim Dietrich 241-3651

Day	Date(s)	Time	Event & Location
Wed.	(not on Dec. 30 th)	7:00pm	Lectionary Bible Study
Thurs	2 nd and 4 th Thurs. Jan. 14, Jan. 28	6:30 - 8:00pm	Hooks & Needles: Come Knit & Crochet, beginners welcome. Participate in Chemo Cap and Comfort Cover Ministry
Thur	Jan. 7	8:00am	Men's Breakfast
Thurs	Jan. 12	6:30pm	Vestry Meeting
Sun.	Jan. 17	After service	Parish Annual Meeting
Thurs	Jan. 21	7:00pm	Euchre Night: Beginners Welcome, Bring Friends!
Tues	Jan 12, 19, 26	7:00pm	Guitar Class
Fri.	Jan. 22	6:00pm	Spaghetti Dinner

VESTRY MINUTES

December 8, 2009

The meeting was called at to order at 6:35 PM and began by sharing concerns, celebrations and prayers led by Rev. Lori Johnson. Absent: Jim Dietrich, Donna Henneke and Sharon Krueger. Guest: Linda Niedecken

Seven Good Things: Candlewalk participation x 2 (Chimers/Singers downtown and wagon greeters at Trinity), Helen Notman: removal of brace and no therapy needed, Stewardship: increase in the number of pledges and amount, Recovery Service on November 28th (22 attendees), New rental of rectory and the success of the recent Thanksgiving Food Drive.

New Business:

Christmas Preparations:
Service at 7 PM on Christmas Eve, Eileen and Rev. Lori are finalizing the music and participants. Greening of the church to take place on Sunday, December 13th.

2010 Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 17th. All annual reports should be in by January 11th. The members discussed possible candidates for 2010 vestry nominations; all present members encouraged approach possible candidates.

2010 Budget:

Treasurer John Rowe presented a preliminary and rough outline of the 2010 budget that was developed as a result of a meeting of the Finance Committee on December 4th. As it stands, we will be looking at a negative budget in 2010. There is more to finalize and there will be more discussion and follow-up at our January meeting. From a stewardship standpoint, the number of pledges and tithing amount is up from 2009.

Continuing Business:

Recovery Service:

Rev. Lori provided a summary of the Recovery Service that took place on November 28th. Rev. Lori felt the event was successful and should grow in the future. There were (22) attendees, many of whom praised the service.

Church Committee Development:

Michael provided some detail and led discussion on the development and organization of the various committees/groups within the church. Much work remains to finalize details of what and who each committee is and the reporting processes for each. Michael will gather an initial meeting of the "Newcomers Committee" on Thursday at 6:30 P

Rev. Lori stated she intends to again gather the "Worship Committee" in early January to review what has taken place during the past few weeks and discuss the upcoming months.

Start Up/Start Over:

Norb shared a spreadsheet summary from our Mission and Vision meetings earlier this year. The vestry felt it is vital to share this information with the congregation. Rev. Lori and Norb are to discuss sending out a mailing to inform the members of this information.

Main Entry Update:

Donna Henneke, Sharon Kruegar and Dee Birchmeier continue to look at improving the main entrance area to the church. This would include new paint colors, light fixtures, display/information boards, etc. More information will follow at the January meeting.

Rectory Rental:

John reported Donna Jessop has successfully found a new tenant to rent the Rectory for \$850/month. The new renters will be moving in around the middle of December.

Convocation Activity:

Denny shared expected 2010 convocation grant expenditures with the vestry.

Treasurer Report:

John Rowe summarized the November and Year to Date statistics. In November, the income was ahead of expenses by \$2,953. Year to date we have a loss of (\$4,239.65) against a budgeted loss of (\$5,614.16). It is our hope that December will be a positive month and offset some of the year to date losses.

The Vestry minutes from the November 17th meeting were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM and Rev. Lori closed with prayer.

Our next meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Norb Birchmeier, (for Clerk Donna Henneke)

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“Called to Love and Serve”

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Sunday Service Time 10:00