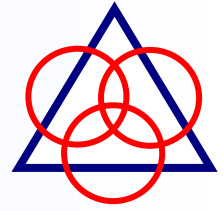


THE TRINITY TRUMPET

November 2010



www.trinitychurchflushing.org

**We have so much to be thankful for,
Let us help others...**



Through all sorts of modern day media, we all have seen the struggles the people of Haiti are experiencing since their devastating earthquake. Given all of the luxuries we enjoy, we can only try to imagine what they are going through. However, as hard we might try, I am sure our images come far short of the realities the Haitian people experience every day.

The following was sent to me, Norb, and other leaders around the diocese and the topic has been shared by Reverend Lori at our Sunday services. Given that, I would like to take space on the next page to again share this request with you and do what we can to assist our brothers and sisters of Haiti.

SENIOR WARDEN NOTES

Dear Norb,

At the Diocesan Convention on Saturday, October 9, 2010, Bishop Ousley stated in his Address:

"In the midst of the challenges we face together as a diocese, we must also acknowledge that our challenges pale in comparison to the continuing challenges faced by the largest diocese of The Episcopal Church, the Diocese of Haiti. Following a devastating earthquake in January of this year, the diocese continues to serve hundreds of thousands in tent cities and its bishop, priests, deacons, and laypersons continue not only to rebuild their church but their country as well. In response to the overwhelming need faced by The Episcopal Church's presence in the poorest country in our hemisphere, the Executive Council and the House of Bishops have committed to a \$10 million appeal for the rebuilding of The Episcopal Church in Haiti. With approximately 100 dioceses reasonably able to assist, that works out to \$100,000 per diocese. I hereby challenge this diocese to raise a minimum of \$100,000 by December 31st of this year for transmittal to the Fund to Rebuild the Church in Haiti. With approximately 3,000 persons in Average Sunday Attendance, that works out to be \$33.33 per person in the pews on any given Sunday."

Sincerely,

Barb Meikle

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

To contribute to the Haiti Appeal, please make a check payable to Trinity Episcopal Church and write Haiti Appeal on the memo line. We will collect these donations and send a monthly check monthly (October, November, and December) for the total collected each month to the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.

Like all of the many good things our outreach ministry is already doing for those in need within our immediate area, I am asking everyone to do what you can to support this cause to those in desperate need of help far outside our "normal" ministry.

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

Yours in Christ, Norb



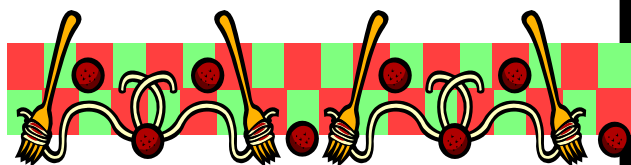
Spaghetti Dinner

Thursday, November 4th

6-8 p.m.

In Ed's Kitchen

Please come and bring a friend



An Experiment Gone Wrong... or Did It Go Right?

The “Experiment”. Many things over at least 5 years had brought me here. One was my question to Presiding Bishop Katherine when she was here. She mentioned our call to reach out to those answering “none of the above” on surveys for their faith tradition. I wondered how we connect with “none of the above” in a culture that makes generalizations about and can be hostile toward Christians. I already knew the answer. She said we don’t do it by standing on the street corner and yelling, but with relationship. Oh right! Mental note to self... relationship.

Then I watched a DVD called, “They Like Jesus But Not The Church” by Dan Kimball. Dan took a video crew to a college campus and asked two questions, “What do you think of when you hear the name Jesus?” and “What comes to mind when you hear the word Christian?” People said positive things about Jesus, but were critical of his followers. Dan notes for many people impressions come from media or others rather than encounters with real people. He calls the Church’s tendency to keep to ourselves the “Christian Bubble”. For people to have actual experience with us, Dan says to intentionally break out of the bubble, and go places where we can meet new people. Even though this isn’t new to me, I thought about Dan’s interviews and our need to leave the bubble. It’s good to be reminded that an extrovert alone in an office preparing a sermon is less likely to meet someone new and let those extrovert tendencies be used than if they’re out near other people. Point taken.

I also thought about the need to know our community and who we’re reaching out to. I wondered how young adults (or not so young but unchurched adults) in our area would answer Dan’s questions. Wouldn’t it be interesting? Couldn’t it lead to more conversation? I had in mind what seemed a simple experiment. Go where there are college students, find some to ask Dan’s questions, see what happens. Then... I complicated it. How best to record responses? Written? Electronically? If it leads to more conversation what else to ask? Maybe I should have extra questions. What if the situation wasn’t right or I chickened out? Could I just hand someone a sheet with questions and ask if they’d fill it out? Well, let the “Experiment” begin.

On Wednesday I went to Applebee’s where I read about the week’s lessons. Didn’t chat much with the waitress, but I also didn’t hide my books. Next I went to the Elbow Room coffee shop to write notes, read, and listen to a podcast on the lessons... with hot cider. Being out in the world has its perks! I chatted with a newish Barista, but didn’t ask his name. Not huge progress, but I’d been more intentional about being out than I’d been recently. I was encouraged to do it again. Thursday. I went for approachable and casual (you know... because I never look approachable or casual – hah!). I wore jeans, hiking boots, turtleneck, tie-dye Flushing Raiders hoodie sweatshirt and had my backpack. Late afternoon I went in search of college students. As I set out to explore I took time to pray. I asked God for presence and courage and for guidance about who I might encounter.

First stop: Pavillion food court. I got a Gyro and saw a few people nearby. Suddenly, I felt nervous. Dan seemed to find it easy to walk up to folks and ask his questions, but maybe it’s easier with a video crew following you. I was in a new place near new people but uncertain what to do – which as an extrovert I found a bit disconcerting. People were eating, working, or relaxing. It felt rude to interrupt. I worried if I walked up and just jumped in with Dan’s questions it’d seem more an attempt at “conversion” than the real conversation and engagement I hoped for. Some nice folks in the veterans lounge gave me directions to the student center (U Cen). I thought there might be more people there, and I’d have time to regroup on the way there. Second Stop: The U Cen. I was right. Not packed, but more people. The same thing happened. I felt uncharacteristically shy, not wanting to impose on people. Coffee & cookie in hand I sat down with a book near two young women. One was on her laptop and the other worked on a costume. Eventually we chatted some, but it was right as we were all about to leave. I also had a brief chat with a man who worked at Clint’s. (Continued on page 3)

By now I was tired and disappointed my experiment had failed. I had no better idea what local college students thought about God or the Church than before I set out. I was coming to realize that while someone with a camera crew might be able to ask strangers such questions, as interesting or helpful as the answers might be it just wasn't my style. If it's really about engaging folks and relationship I probably wasn't going to be able to walk up to a stranger and ask, "What do you think of when you hear the word Jesus?" This would take time. It meant not only going new places, but to go back so you might bump into the same people, become familiar with each other, build trust.

I felt a little deflated that what had seemed like a brilliant plan hadn't worked out. I headed home, with a detour to Border's Bookstore. They too have a café where one might meet and chat with new people. I looked over the café and satisfied, quickly moved to the other reason I was there. Books! Books would cheer me up. I was looking for C.S. Lewis and Harry Potter. My copy of Lewis' "The Great Divorce" is missing and I want to reread it. Harry Potter? Read them all but don't own them all. A book I'm reading on Harry Potter, and the new movie are making me want to reread them too.

Now... remember that prayer earlier? Right. Keep that in mind for this next part.

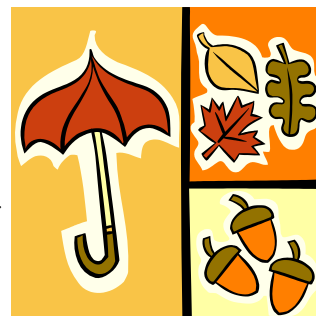
A cheerful young man asked if he could help me. Dangerous question for me in a bookstore. I explained my book browsing mission. First he showed me Harry Potter, then we went in search of the C.S. Lewis book which was harder to find. Then... ah ha! There it was. I was excited to find it. He'd told me he read the Narnia books, but none of the others. I enthusiastically told him the basic concept of the book, which he found interesting. Suddenly, unexpectedly, you could feel the rapport as we were launched into a real conversation. During this conversation he realized he had to clockout so left and came back to talk more. We cover such varied things as Pascal's wager, I'm a priest and his question how I like ministry, exploring faith, his friend who converted to a particular denomination, talking with people of other faiths, being okay with some mystery, and more. We also exchanged names and he told me when he typically works, saying maybe we could talk more sometime. It was cool! It was fun! I might have made a new friend! I left buoyed by the surprise encounter and enjoyable conversation (a new copy of The Great Divorce didn't hurt my mood either).

Some reflections on the two days I spent in the world this week.

First, it didn't go the way I imagined. At first I felt I'd failed. I focused on replicating Dan's video and ignored being more driven by PB Katherine's words on relationship, and the idea of leaving the Christian bubble. Once I relaxed extrovert girl returned, an interest was tapped (books), and I met an interesting person. I think my experience in Border's was unique. I guess most first conversations won't be as spiritual in nature. I think being clergy, the Lewis book, and his interests contributed to that. I believe stumbling upon each other was an answer to prayer. Remember to pray. I also think I could have had similar rapport and real conversation with someone with Harry Potter or something else as the basis. The goal is to encounter each other. Now, I didn't get names, but in two days I met and learned a bit about 5 new people and had a real conversation with one other. When we go out into the world we need to expect the unexpected, and adapt. So no, it didn't go as planned, but perhaps it went even better because I now have a starting point with each of these people.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to go and do likewise. Look for opportunities to have a conversation (about anything) with one new person or even someone who's an acquaintance. That means listening too. Maybe more listening than talking. If you're focused on listening you won't worry about what to say. It might feel awkward, but, the only way it'll get more natural is if we keep trying. I hope you find it not just something we're called to do, but rewarding too. Peace, Lori+

Harvest Festival 2010



Saturday, October 2, was cold, windy and rainy, but Trinity's booth at the Festival was ready and waiting at 10:00. We had to turn the table diagonally under the booth, to prevent water from cascading down our visitors' backs, but no true Michigander allows those conditions to spoil a good party! Entire families cruised the Festival with umbrellas.

We set out a large bowl of mini-pumpkins (orange-painted acorns) with Sharpies pens for drawing jack'o'lantern faces, cardstock and Foamies leaf shapes for making pictures, and a supply of candy.

Claire Jess was our chief cheerleader, stopping passersby and showing examples of the jack'o'lanterns she had made. When shown a jack'o'lantern, most people veered straight into the booth and even stood in line to make one of their own. The Foamies were a very popular craft with the little ones.

Children were showing their pumpkins up and down the street, so that when I took shelter in a local business and told a worker that I was with Trinity's booth, she replied, "Oh, where they're making those adorable pumpkins!" Whenever the talent contests paused to change acts, crowds of kids came running down the street toward us, pointing and calling, "Over there! That's where they're making them!" Some children made whole villages of pumpkin characters.

By 2:00, most of the booths had closed up and left, but Trinity still had lots of customers. Around 3:00, a very strong gust of wind knocked over the unmanned booth next to us, scattering the display of windows and hurling the tent up so that it struck Claire on the way down. Thankfully, she was not hurt, but at that point we surrendered and struck the tent.

Many thanks to Norb Birchmeier for setting up and taking down the booth, and to Rev. Lori, Linda Niedecken, Eileen Nagy, Shirley St. John, Marianne Funke, and Claire Jess for braving the weather, working the booth and enthusiastically promoting Trinity. Thanks are also due to Claire Jess, Thomas Jess, Destiny Brier and Ed and Donna Henneke for the acorn "harvest". We had over 1,000 - that's a lot of bending down!





Annual Wreath Sale

Yes, it is wreath sale time again!

This fundraiser is VERY important to our church. Hopefully, each of us will purchase a wreath for our own door, but, let's go the next step this year and buy or/sell to our children.

Next, the gifts you give to friends and neighbors you like to remember at Christmas, give a wreath as your gift this year. Don't forget all those businesses you spent money with over the past year, perhaps they would like to buy a wreath for their front door?

The wreaths are \$25, they are 24 to 26 inches in diameter, have a handmade, water resistant, red velvet bow. The wreaths are handcrafted using a mixture of greens.

Volunteers will assemble the wreath the weekend of Thanksgiving. Earlier deliveries are available before.

Order sheets are at the church or one can be emailed to you.

Questions?

Ann James 230-1373

Dave Krueger 659-9552

FYI...Debbie Josling is already hard at work selling wreaths, she is the top salesperson each year.



Euchre



The 3rd Thursday of each month, 7 – 9 PM, Salay Room.

Ministry	NOV. 7	NOV. 14	NOV. 21	NOV. 28
Acolyte	Tori Lockhart	Austin Boulter	Claire Jess	Tori Lockhart
Lector/Chalice	Ed Henneke	Larry Elder	Ed Henneke	Shirley St. John
Greeters	Mary Dietrich	Elaine Martin	Cary Rouse	Lynnette Pepler
Ushers	Don Erickson John Rowe	Elaine Martin Kathy Boulter	Rebecca Jess Jane Rousseau	Dennis and Nancy Pickard
Coffee Hour	Jim & Mary Dietrich	Anne James Eileen Nagy	Sue Porn Dorothy West	Donna Henneke Sharon Krueger
Eucharistic Visitor	Lori Johnson	Ed Henneke or Lori Johnson	Lori Johnson	Ed Henneke or Lori Johnson



Bead Party at Trinity Tuesday, Nov. 16th

Drop in after work

4:00-8:30pm

and bring a friend, This jewelry makes great gifts and are very affordable. Shea butter and shea soap also. Come support women and families in Africa.

BIRTHDAYS



Brenda Trewhella	Nov 4
Rebecca Jess	Nov 6
Betty Jacobs	Nov 8
Larry Knerr	Nov 20
Donna Jessop	Nov 23
Lukas Knerr	Nov 25
Sharla Dorhout	Nov 29

ANNIVERSARIES

There are none this month.

*God bless you on
your special day*



Trinity Cups for Sale

The original idea for the Trinity Cups was to have a gift we could send home with visitors.

The cups are handmade by a Flint potter
Guy Adamec.



For sale at the church
for \$10 each, our cost.

Trinity's Outreach is doing a kids table to go along with the coat at Flushing Outreach Center give away in November. We will have hats, scarfs, mittens and gloves available for the families to choose. If you have some you would like to donate (in good shape or new) please bring to the church by **Nov. 10th**

Outreach will be collecting items for the homeless all winter long for the programs sponsored by **St. Andrews** and **St. Pauls**. These include toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, soap, pocket size tissues, feminine products, hand sanitizer, hand warmers, brush and combs. They always can use blankets and warm clothes. There are many things you can't buy even if you get **food stamps** such as laundry soap and **toilet paper** and the items previously mentioned.

Trinity's Outreach will be buying many items but if you would like to donate please help us out. There are 200 families being helped monthly by the Flushing Outreach Center and figure there will be more during the holidays. We are still trying to keep our money as local as possible.

The Trinity Outreach Commission

Trinity Episcopal Church

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“Called to Love and Serve”

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