

THE TRINITY TRUMPET

March 2010

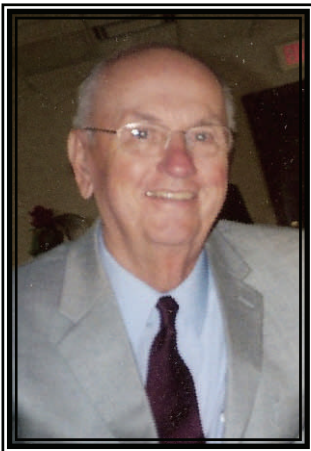


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Sunday Service 10 AM



JACK CARLSEN

1931 - 2010

One of our outstanding members at Trinity "Jack" Carlsen passed away on February 17, 2010.

Jack - Paul J. Carlsen Jr. - had been a member of

Trinity for many years. To say that he was just a member is hardly coming close to what Jack has meant to this church or even the Diocese and our greater community.

Jack was one of those special persons who everyone knew or certainly got to know. Before coming to Trinity, he was a member of St Paul's Episcopal Church in Flint where he served on the Vestry and, I am sure, in many other capacities.

As the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan was going through a transformation, to be more responsive to the needs of its' constituents, Jack was one of the leaders in the formation of a new diocese - The Diocese of Eastern Michigan. When the new diocese began in 1995 it was yet without a Bishop. Jack was elected as President of The Standing Committee which is the governing body of the Diocese. This body was the "Ecclesiastical Authority" within the diocese until a Bishop would be elected. As President of that governing body, Jack along with The Standing Committee was responsible for getting the new diocese going. In addition, Jack had to deal with many administrative duties normally handled by a Bishop. As the Chancellor of the new diocese and

Counselor to the "Ecclesiastical Authority" I was very much aware of the heavy tasks Jack undertook to guide our new diocese. Jack was a principal participant in the Primary Diocesan Convention, overseeing the approval of our original canons and constitution. He was the oil that made the diocese run, and very well I might add. His term as President continued after our first Bishop Ed Leidel was elected and together with all the members of the diocese we got our start. After a short breather, Jack was again elected to the Diocesan Standing Committee in 2007 serving until his death.

Jack brought to the table his experience as an educator at the college level - including Mott Community College as an instructor in American History, he was also a Division Chairperson and Dean of Natural and Social Sciences.

When Jack came to Trinity he soon became a member of its' Vestry. He was involved in Cursillo, Christ Enrichment Center, and the North End Soup Kitchen as well as being Trinity's Flint River Convocation Representative. However, he never lost his skill as an educator and he continued numerous Christian Education studies at the Church.

If that wasn't enough, Jack was very active in the local Lions Club and was also an avid "golfer" along with being the Church "official" photographer.

Jack will be sorely missed. We all share the grief of his wife Vause who is a Deacon at Trinity and his family. In spite of his quiet demeanor, he gave sound advice and direction not only to this parish and the diocese, but to all who knew him. His legacy will live on for many years.

God Bless you Jack, we know you are in a far better place where we will meet again.

May you rest in peace. Ed Henneke

Lenten Speakers Series: Opportunity to Learn & Build Bridges

Feb. 24th was the first night of our Lenten Series: "World Religions and their sacred writings." We began with fellowship and tasty soup provided by Mary and Jim Dietrich, then moved into our program. Even though there were no guests in response to our postcard, flyers or invitations, the evening met the hopes I'd had for it, and seemed to for the other 17 people gathered too.

Our topic for the evening was Islam, and our speaker was Dr. Mohammed Saleem, M.D. Dr. Saleem is the current Vice Director of the Flint Islamic Center and is on the board of directors for a free medical clinic that was begun by the Muslim community in the area. He was born in India and is a life-long Muslim, but has studied some of the other world religions.


Dr. Saleem was gracious, generous with his time and knowledge, and very personable. He expressed his appreciation for being able to participate in something that can dispel misconceptions or broad generalizations and build inter-faith bridges as we embrace opportunities to understand one another better. Several times he paused, to check with us to make sure he hadn't offended us.

Here are just a few things I learned about the Qur'an (sometimes spelled Koran):

The first word in the Qur'an is "read", but the prophet Muhammed (also spelled Mohammed) was illiterate and he received the words from the angel Gabriel and was a messenger of God. The Qur'an presumes you are familiar with Jewish and Christian writings. It's seen not as "new" but as a continuation and is a book for everyone, not just for a specific group of people. It is seen as a manual for life. Muslims believe the Qur'an has been preserved in its original form for 1400 years, it is about 600 pages long and there are people, even a few children, who have memorized it. Jesus is mentioned about 25 times in the Qur'an in ways that refer to God's oneness, while Muhammed is mentioned about 4 times. There are 114 chapters, some short, some longer.

Dr. Saleem shared that the word "Allah" is an original Arabic word meaning "God". In addition to passages on God and prayer, the Qur'an discusses, among other things: lending & inheritance laws, social life, the creation of the earth and its shape, instructions on food, fraud, justice, and forgiveness. One passage he shared with us had to do with taking care of elderly parents without complaining. (Continued on page 5)

CURIOUS ABOUT WORLD RELIGIONS?



GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

**So Are We!
Come Learn With Us This Lent**

Wednesdays in Lent Topic: "World Religions and their Sacred Writings"

Speakers will share about
their faith traditions.

Schedule

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.: Soup Supper

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.: Program

(attending supper is optional)

- Feb. 24: Islam
- March 3: Judaism
- March 10: Hinduism
- March 17: TBA
- March 24: Bahá'í

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SENIOR WARDEN NOTES

The 2010 vestry met for a weekend retreat/meeting and held its first monthly meeting in February to begin to lay the groundwork for the upcoming months. So what's on our "to do" list?

Developing a Vision Statement

Primary on our agenda is the creation of a "Vision Statement" for Trinity. In follow-up to Start-up/Start Over (SUSO), Reverend Lori arranged to have Reverend Marty Field share his expertise on "congregational growth" during our retreat. The vestry found his presentation very interesting and it was a learning experience for all. Marty led us through a couple of exercises to assess where the congregation is in a number of key areas. The highlight of his presentation centered on creating a "Vision" and the importance of having a vision.

We first began our journey to create a vision last fall during our Mission and Vision gatherings last fall. During the gatherings, you were asked to share what it is about Trinity that is important to you and what were your dreams for Trinity. From those meetings, a list of 40 words and/or statements was established. Those of you that have been at our Sunday services over the past few weeks have been asked to assist with the development of our vision by narrowing down that list of words and statements by indicating your "TOP TEN" choices of what you would like to be a part of Trinity's fabric in the year 2020. With your input, we will then begin the process of developing a "Vision Statement" for 2020. Once we have this vision, we will then be able to strategically plan and create a road map to achieve the vision.

This will not be a quick or an easy process. There will be many drafts to share, review, and redo until our final vision is agreed upon. If you have a talent for writing and would like to be a part of the vision development, please see Rev. Lori or myself.

Growth

The vestry is quickly learning there is an entire litany of things that can be done to assist with our growth. As mentioned in last month's Trumpet,

Michael Busch is leading a group discussing "Evangelism and Church Growth". They have put together recommendations and goals for both and the vestry is reviewing their recommendations.

We are also using another tool provided by Marty called "Analyzing the Systems of Your Congregation". This tool asks a number of questions under the subtitles of:

- Your Welcoming System
- Your Nurturing System
- Your Empowerment System
- Your Serving System

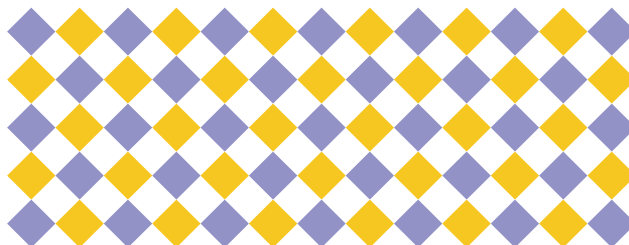
From this, and the things learned from SUSO, we are able to discover the good things we are doing as well as establish our shortcomings. It is those shortcomings that we will be working on to assist in our growth.

Main Entry Update

A few months ago, the vestry asked Donna Henneke and Sharon Krueger to look into updating our main entry. The vestry felt the area had become outdated and was in need of a change in order to create a good first impression.

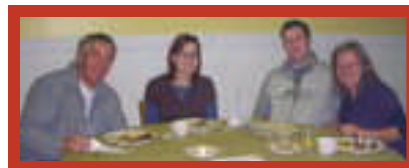
With input from Dee Birchmeier, Donna and Sharon presented their plan to the vestry at its February meeting. Included in the updates are new paint, crown molding, new information boards, new material racks and new light fixtures. Pending approval from the Celebration Committee, funding was approved to proceed with the project. The plan was presented to the Celebration Committee which agreed to fund the improvements out of the Celebration account.

(continued on page 6)



Pancake Supper

On Shrove Tuesday this year Trinity was filled with wonderful smells and good fellowship. Master Chefs Ralph Niedecken and Jim Dietrich (two good Germans) grilled sausage large and small to complement the fluffy pancakes that were served. Korina Knerr and Denny Pickard help set up the room for wonderful sharing of food and friendship. This was made possible by the efforts of Betsy Eller and crew who readied the dishes. Randilynn Knerr graciously started us with a wonderful prayer and we all enjoyed the flapjacks and sausages. It was a great last indulgence before the starting of the Lenten season.



Randilynn's Meal Time Grace

Gracious God, I pray that you will bless this food so that it is a sign to me of the abundance of your love. May its color, its taste, its smell remind me of the goodness and complexity of creation. May it be more than mere fuel for my body, and become instead the sacrament that feeds my soul. I ask this for the sake of your love. Amen

Birthdays

Betty Rundell	March 7
Kyle Allison	March 9
Charlotte Colby	March 16
Charles Allison	March 23

Anniversaries

Mike & Peggy Ellis March 21

*God bless you on
your special day*



Moving Forward - TOGETHER

The upcoming year will again be a very busy time. There are a number of facets in developing a Vision Statement and creating a strategy for church growth. Input, patience and prayers from all are needed. The vestry will do its best to keep you updated and involved. I invite anyone with ideas to share them. If you have questions, please ask. There are no secrets or magic formulas to our future. It will require all of us working together as a family to bring it all together.

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

Yours in Christ, Norb

VESTRY MEETING

February 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order with prayer at 6:40 p.m. by Rev Lori Johnson. Concerns and celebrations were shared. Absent: Ann James, Mike Busch and Denny Pickard. Guests: Dave Krueger.

Seven Good Things: Rev Lori’s birthday, new format for the bulletin, Trumpet, Annual Meeting, spaghetti dinner, new Vestry and re-up members and a good Vestry Retreat.

New Business: Overview of the Vestry Retreat found it to be very engaging. Next steps to be followed will be to analyze the systems of our Congregation and to start working to achieve a vision.

A Diocesan Conference will be held at Trinity Church in Bay City on March 13th. The topic will be Your Church + Your Community. Registration is required.

Lenten preparations include a pancake supper on February 16th Shrove Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Lenten Series with soup and Spirituality Guest Speakers starting on February 24th - Dr. Mohammed Saleem - Islam, March 3rd - Rabbi Karen Companeze - Judaism, March 10th - Alok Kumar - Hinduism, March 17th TBA - Buddhism and March 24th - Cate Vance and youth - Bahai.

Postcards will be sent out to announce the slate of speakers.

Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on February 17th. Trinity has been invited to take part in an Ecumenical service on Good Friday, April 2nd at the Methodist Church at 1:00 p.m. Services at Trinity will be at 7:00 p.m. on that date.

Continuing Business: A request to fund the upgrading of the Church Entry will be made to the Celebration Committee. Approximate cost will be \$1200.00.

Treasurer’s report showed offerings for January were \$8,377.00. YTD was +\$266.00. Jane Rousseau made a motion, seconded by Ralph to accept the Treasurer’s report. Unanimous.

Minutes of January 12th were accepted as written.

Respectfully submitted Donna Henneke, Clerk

Euchre

March 18th

Day	Date(s)	Time	Event & Location
Sunday	In Lent	9:00am	Lenten Diocesan Bible Study "On the Way to Jerusalem" http://easternmichigan.typepad.com/easternmichiganbishop
Wednesday	(on hold during Lenten Study)	7:00pm	Lectionary Bible Study
Thursday	Until Good Friday	8:15 – 9:00pm	Choir Practice for "The Weeping Tree" Cantata for Ecumenical Good Friday Service at Flushing United Methodist Church
Thursday	2 nd and 4 th Thurs. March 11, 25	6:30 – 8:00pm	Hooks & Needles: Come Knit & Crochet, beginners welcome. Participate in Chemo Cap Ministry
Monday	Mar. 1 and 8	6:30pm	Guitar Class
Wednesday	Mar 3, 10, 17, 24	6:00 – 8:00pm 6 – 7pm Dinner 7 – 8pm Program	Wed. in Lent: Soup and Spirituality Guest Speaker Series: World Religions & their
Thursday	March 4	8:00am	Men's Breakfast
Tuesday	March 9	6:30pm	Vestry
Saturday	March 13	10am – 3pm	Leadership Gathering: Your Church, Your Community at Trinity, Bay City
Saturday	March 13	9am – Noon	Safeguarding God's Children (at Trinity)
Thursday	March 18	7:00pm	Euchre

Online Daily Lenten Reflection with optional email reminder
<http://www.d365.org/journeytothecross/>

LENTEN RESOURCES

Explore Faith Lenten Toolbox with daily reflections
http://www.explorefaith.org/faith/explore_christianity/holy_days/lent/lenten_toolbox.php

Signposts Daily Devotions online at Explore Faith
<http://www.explorefaith.org/tools/signposts/ndex.php>

Quote a day Lenten calendar from Explore Faith
http://www.explorefaith.org/faith/explore_christianity/holy_days/lent/when_we_are_real.php

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“Called to Love and Serve”

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