

THE TRINITY TRUMPET



October 2009

www.trinitychurchflushing.org

Trinity Episcopal Church
Phone: 810-659-9716

745 E Main St,
Fax: 810-659-6013

Flushing, Michigan 48433
Email: trinityec@usol.com

Sunday Service 10 AM

Flint River Valley Convocation

The Flint River Valley Convocation met on Saturday September 12 at Christ Church Owosso. The FRVC received \$5,174.58 from the Diocese in August to continue its Mission of providing service to Congregations in the Convocation. The majority of the funds this year are going to Outreach projects such as.

Chesaning Area Emergency Relief

Christ Enrichment Center, Flint

Christ Church Owosso

Corunna Ministerial Association

Downtown Outreach Ministry, Flint

St. Andrews, Flint Feeding Program

St. Dunstons, Davison Food Pantry

St Paul's, Flint Feeding Program

Convocation funds also go to Christian Formation, Congregation Development and a small amount for Convocation Administration. Trinity Flushing has \$4,000 set aside for 2009 in the area of Congregational Development to cover cost of Lori, Ann and Cary attending Start Up Start Over conference in North Carolina.

We have an opportunity to apply for 2010 funds. The deadline is October 30, 2009. Is there a Flushing Food Program that could use extra help? Do you have other Outreach ideas that would help people in our area and be a worthy use of Convocation funds? If so let me know and perhaps together we could fill in the application to see what might happen? My phone number is 810-733-5432. It appears that most funds will be designate for various Outreach programs in 2010.

The Convocation meets the 2nd Saturday each month except in July. Trinity has received about \$19,000 from the Convocation since 2007. It is a very helpful organization. The funds we send to the Diocese have come back to help us many times over.

Denny Pickard Trinity Convocation Representative

Senior Warden Notes

October 2009

"Called to Love and Serve"

2009 is quickly coming to a close and it is not too early to begin thinking about 2010. Traditionally, October is the month the vestry begins to discuss candidates for election at our next annual meeting in January.

Unless they choose to be nominated for re-election, we will regretfully lose the services of Donna Henneke, Ralph Niedecken and John Rowe who will be completing their present terms as vestry members.

What is a vestry member and what are the responsibilities? The canons of the Episcopal Church state a vestry "shall be agents and legal representatives of the Parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the parish to its clergy". I think it should be thought of as an opportunity to serve the Lord and assist the membership in fulfilling its mission.

Trinity's vestry is comprised of 9 members who typically serve 3-year terms and meet on a monthly basis (more if needed) to review what is happening within the congregation, discuss current and future concerns and directions, and lead and assist the administration of those needs. Basically the vestry works as a group to discern, along with the rector, what the parish is called to do and provide leadership of that calling.

Given the size of our congregation, many of you have "served your time". At a critical time in the life of Trinity, I am hoping that everyone will seriously consider and pray about becoming a vestry member again or for the first time.

Though sometimes challenging, I'd like to share why I chose to serve on the vestry. (cont inued on page 2)

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

I first became a vestry member to get involved, find out what was happening, educate myself with the "Episcopal Way" and out of a sense of duty.

Though not always the case, the past 5 - 6 years have been a more pleasant experience, because:

All involved have truly cared about the well being of the congregation and though there may be differences, all decisions are made in a conscious effort to do what was best for Trinity as a whole.

The more experience and time spent on the vestry has allowed the vestry to grow in knowledge and expectations.

Our time gathered together as a vestry, has allowed members to be at ease and comfortable with one another, similar to a family, allowing for open discussions.

My time on the vestry and particularly as Senior Warden has allowed me to get to know the congregation better.

Most importantly, it has brought me closer to God! Being a vestry member/Senior Warden has prompted me to pray and talk to the Lord in a frequency I have never done before! Daily during quiet times I find myself praying and asking the Lord for guidance, wisdom and the strength to do what is best for Trinity. It has taught me the value of "conversation" with God and to seek answers.

There are a number of articles/resources when it comes to vestry service, but I think Diane Pollard said it best in an article in *Vestry Papers* (January/February 2007) when writing about why one should serve on a vestry and the criteria needed. She explains that vestry service should be viewed as "a calling, a commitment to Christian as well as business principals" and she cites the Baptismal Covenant as the basic job description for vestry service.

Do you believe in God the Father?

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?

As we move forward, it is critical that we continue to have an engaged vestry and membership that are willing to offer suggestions, share thoughts, dreams and even frustrations all in an effort to do what is best for Trinity. Certainly, being a vestry member is not for everyone and only you can decide if serving is the right thing for you. Should you find it in your heart that you would like to be considered for a vestry position, or would like further information, please let Lori or any member of the vestry know. If you decide to answer this calling, please keep in mind our answer to our Baptismal Covenant, "**We will with God's help.**"

Yours in Christ, Norb



Come to the Fall Festival

Trinity will have a table at the Flushing Fall Festival.

Thanks to all who have signed up to help, and to those who want to come and help, please feel free to come and join in on all the fun.

We will be stamping, leaf rubbing, and leaf creating. We will set up a couple of tables, and we hope to have our cards, wreath sale sign up, and Trinity Banner for all to see and enjoy the activities.

Do come out and spread our love and hospitality to our community. Thanks. See you Saturday, October 3rd from 10:00 until 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pickard



JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

I am looking back over the past 9 months and wondering where the time has gone. It seems like yesterday that the Vestry Retreat was held at Kathy's. The retreat was a wonderful time of fellowship and learning. I must respect all those members who have preceded us in service, because of all the time they have spent getting Trinity to the point it is today. We must all remember that nothing in life is easy, but with God's help, anything can be accomplished!

The task of the junior warden is to oversee the building conditions. Frank Jessop and the handymen do far more than I could ever do in this regard. Frank is ever vigilant of conditions, maintenance, and repairs at Trinity. Thank you Frank and the handymen for all that you do!

I would like to point out and remind all of us of what has been accomplished at Trinity since January 2009. These items could not have been completed without the support and vision of the Finance Committee, Outreach, Vestry, and all the congregation members that helped with these projects.

COMPLETED PROJECTS:

Men's restroom sink and lever handle faucets with "trap wrap" to protect the piping from wheelchair damage.

Men's bathroom: removal of the main partition, securing of the half partition, installing a new "right height" toilet with safety bars on the walls.

Privacy lock for use of men's restroom.

Key locked lever locksets on the back and handicap entrance doors.

New suspended ceiling in the women's restroom.

Programmable thermostat in the Carriage House.

Two new locksets on the Carriage house.

Upgrading our PA system with 3 new microphones.

Installing smoke detectors in the church and the rectory.

The beautiful landscaping done this spring, with watering, weeding, and TLC by many.

Probably many other projects that the handymen accomplished that we don't even know.

The point of all this information is that anything can be accomplished in small steps. With the help of everyone at Trinity these items represent a huge amount of work done in small steps.

With everyone trying to do their best at whatever their gifts may be, Trinity can and will move forward in the way that God has planned for us!

Respectfully submitted, Jim Dietrich



Wreath Sale

Our goal is 300 wreaths!

The order sheets are in the lounge.

If you know of another group that needs to boost their treasury we will make the wreaths and share the profits with them.

We need everyone to participate in this fund raiser!

Questions?

**Dave Krueger, Ann James,
Debbie Josling, Dick Stone
or Jack Carlsen**

This letter is to give you an overview of the Church Financial picture as of August 31, 2009. It is the opinion of the financial committee that we will be short of meeting our 2009 budget by approximately \$5,000 dollars. It is also important for you to know that if it were not for a gift of \$12,000 from the Diocese of Easter Michigan, Breaking New Grounds Fund this deficit would be \$17,000. The budget breakdown for income and expenses as of 8/31/09 is listed below.

<u>Income Area</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>	<u>as of 8/31/09</u>
Offerings	\$100,000	\$60,565.00
Loose Offerings	1,500	775.19
Sovereign Auto (parking)	1,000	583.33
Wreath Sales	4,000	1,975.00*
Breaking New Ground	12,000	12,000.00
Sundry Items Income	1,000	663.10
Dividend Income	200	35.50
Parsonage Rental	<u>10,800</u>	<u>6,800.00**</u>
Totals	\$130,500.00	\$83,397.00

If all went as planned we would have had a budget deficit of --**\$1,170** at years end.

*money shows in 2009 but was actually for 2008 wreath sales

** Parsonage rental will be **\$9,600** / 6 months at \$900 / 6 at \$700 / month --**\$1,200**.

Remember: Worship/Pastoral Care, service to others, Christian Formation and Evangelism when you think of the Church, its operation, its Mission and it's Purpose in our community.

EXPENSES:	Budget	8/31/09
Building:	13,300	9,624.13
Commissions:	5,280	1,589.51
Operational:	6,979	5,116.86
Payroll expenses	89,612	58,788.77
Pledges: (Diocesan Tithe)	10,509	7,006.00
(Outreach Comm.)	<u>6,000</u>	<u>4,213.35</u>
Total Expenses:	\$131,680	\$86,338

The difference between income and expenses as of 8/31/09 is --**\$2,941**



The chart below shows monies the Church as received from the Diocese of Eastern Michigan or The Flint River Valley Convocation to find and hire Lori and support our Music Ministry with Eileen

Diocese of Eastern Michigan (Breaking New Grounds) Help cover cost of FT Rector

2008	15,000
12,000	
9,000	
6,000	

Flint River Valley Convocation (Support of Trinity Flushing)

Support of Music Ministry	2007	5,000
Search for Rector and Moving Exp	2008	10,000
Start Up Start Over	2009	4,000
	2010	?????

The Finance Committee wants you to know where we are with our Church Finances at this time. We believe there are three things we all can do related to the church. We all can **PRAY** about it, second contribute a little more financially if possible to help reduce the anticipated deficit, third get involved as we plan for the future with time, talent and ideas to help Trinity grow and prosper.

Sincerely, Denny Pickard Member of Finance Committee

WARM SLEEPING

Trinity's Outreach group have been providing some of the supplies needed for St. Andrew's lunch program. Ann James and Betsy Eller, using Outreach funds as approved, check with Father Jay and then make and deliver the needed supplies. The people who come to St. Andrew's for the meal and a service are often without shelter and/or heat and warm clothing.

Because Trinity is already making or supplying blankets or shawls to Hurley oncology patients, it was just another step to make or supply blankets to those in need who come to St. Andrew's. The fleece blankets we've been supplying work well, are easy to make (not really any sewing!). By watching ads for fleece on sale and for ready made fleece blankets, many are warmer for very few \$'s. Just bring them to Trinity, leave them in the lounge and Outreach will see that they are taken to Hurley or St. Andrew's.

God's peace

and our thanks,

Vause Carlsen, Deacon

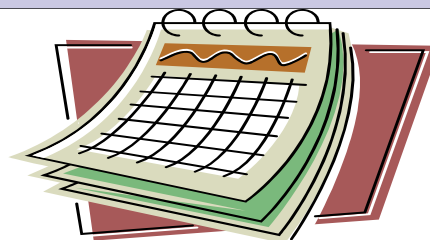


Let's Play
Euchre
First Meeting
Thursday
October 15th
in the Salay Room
7 PM

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

Bring your friends and a "snack" to pass, drinks will be furnished.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



October Birthdays:

- Helen Notman Oct 3
- Thomas McNally Oct 5
- Paul St. John Oct 6
- Donald Erickson Oct 16
- Linda Niedecken Oct 18
- Ann Stone Oct 20
- Brenda Leffen Oct 20
- Gordon Hitchcock Oct 27

*May God
Bless All
on Their
Special Days !*

Mark Your Calendar

Day	Date(s)	Time	Event & Location
Thursday	Oct 1st	8:00a.m.	Men's Breakfast Liberty Rest.
Monday	Oct 5, 12 19 & 26	7:00 p.m.	DVD series' Worldwide religions
Wednesday	Oct 7, 14, 21 & 28	7:00 p.m.	
Thursday	Oct 8 & 22	6:30 p.m.	Hooks & Needles
Sat.	Oct 3	All day	Fall Festival

October Anniversaries:

- June & John Rowe Oct. 1
- Robert & Beth Michaels Oct. 8
- Norb & Dee Birchmier Oct. 14
- Dorothy & John West Oct. 30



The Progressive Dinner

Is coming soon

THANK YOU

WATER IS ON!!

There have been two requests recently for help with delinquent water bills. The Deacon's Discretionary Fund was sought for help if possible. Thanks to donations to the Fund both homes again have running water. In both cases, the individuals had employment and medical insurance but catastrophic illness which cut employment and cash resulted in much bill juggling and notices came from the Water Department that the "juggle time" was over. The Deacon's Fund was able to help thanks to your generous help.

If you would like to donate to the Fund, please make out your checks to Trinity Episcopal Church and on the MEMO line write Deacon's Discretionary Fund. Help keep the water running, food on the table, medicine or dressings on hand and lights and heat working

God's Peace,
Vause Carlsen, Deacon

Stewardship

Faithful Investments

Consider for a moment that everyone on earth has the same amount of time in every day. President or paper-boy, housewife or executive, farmer or financier – they all have exactly twenty four hours in each day.

What differentiates people isn't the amount of time available to them but the manner in which they exercise their gifts and talents within the available time. **That's what stewardship is about: faithfully developing and using our gifts, talents, and resources within the allotted time God has allotted us.**

Within every stewardship relationship there are two parties involved: the master who hands out the resources and will one day ask for an accounting; and the steward who is entrusted with the resources and must eventually answer for how they were invested.

When Jesus taught about his second coming, he drove home one important lesson: only faithful stewards will be prepared for his return. The parable he used to make this point involved three servants who each received a sum of money from his master before the master departed on a long journey. Upon his return the master discovered that two of the servants had invested the money and that one had buried it.

When the servant who had buried the money began offering excuses the master refused to accept them. Instead he rebuked the lazy servant and punished him severely.

Leaders are stewards. They manage multiple resources because they direct others in using their own resources. Consider ways of investing the multiple resources God has placed under your trust

Psalm 119: 36

Mark 12: 41-44

Malachi 3: 8-10

Psalm 23: 1

Matthew 6: 24

Luke 12: 15

Matthew 6: 31-33

1 Timothy 6: 6-10

Taken from: *God's Words of Life for Leaders*

(from the NIV by Zondervan)



Stewardship Gatherings

Three stewardship gatherings were held at Trinity on Wednesdays September 9, 16 and 23. The gatherings included 25 individuals from 15 different Trinity families. The purpose of the meetings was to have a general discussion on Stewardship, its multiple definitions, time, talent, treasure and we talked about Trinity and its Mission, Purpose with thoughts on preparing for visioning the future with a stronger understanding of where we are now. We talked about a number of things. I have included a number of our handouts for you to review. There will be more information to follow either in written form or at future stewardship gatherings.

)

Trinity Episcopal Church

745 E. Main St.
Flushing, MI 48433

Phone: 810-659-9716

Fax: 810-659-6013

Email: trinityec@usol.com

Website:
www.trinitychurchflushing.org

“Called to Love and Serve”

STAFF

The Rev. Lori Johnson 810-869-6564
Rector revlori.trinity@gmail.com

The Rev. Vause Carlsen 810-732-3619
Deacon vcarlsen@comcast.net

Eileen Nagy 810-771-4129
Pastoral Musician franklinnagy@comcast.net

Jeannie Hitchcock 810-639-3643
Bookkeeper/Sexton flashsmrs@aol.com

Rosie Nicholas 810-659-9716
Secretary trinityec@usol.com

VESTRY

Sr. Warden: Norb Birchmeier 810-659-9552
Email: nbirchm1@hurleymc.com

Jr. Warden: Jim Dietrich 810-241-3651
Email: jimdietrich52@gmail.com

Treasurer: John Rowe 810-735-8750
Email: rowe2604@charter.net

Clerk: Donna Henneke 810-659-6309
Email: ehenn1@sbcglobal.net

Ann James 810-230-1373
Email: annljames@comcast.net

Michael Busch 810-762-3483
Email: mwbusch@gmail.com

Sharon Krueger 810-659-9552
Email: thepaintlady@comcast.net

Ralph Niedecken 810-687-0076
Email: rniedecken@aol.com

Denny Pickard 810-733-5432
Email: dpickaec@aol.com

**Trinity Episcopal Church
745 E. Main St.
Flushing, MI 48433**

Sunday Service Time 10:00