

# THE TRINITY TRUMPET



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*When sleet blinds you,  
hail drowns out voices,  
and snow hides your path,*

*may you discern in each flake  
a star, image of the one  
that guided the Magi,*

*and find that in the pain  
of birth, death or change*

*there is a light  
to guide you.*

*From 'Winter Blessing' by Mary Palmer*



## Season After The Epiphany: God Made Manifest

by The Rev. Lori Johnson

A month ago, on January 6<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the Epiphany. The season after the Epiphany lasts until Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. "Epiphany" means appearing or manifestation. This refers to God made manifest in Jesus and revealed to the Magi. These astrologers had recognized a sign, and followed a star a great distance to confirm their conviction that something unique and important was occurring. With this appearing or Epiphany, God is revealed as doing a new thing in our lives. The Magi respond to this new thing with joy, kneeling before him and offering gifts.

*Please see Epiphany on page 4*

## Senior Warden's Notes

by Norb Birchmeier

With each passing year I am amazed how fast the time goes by. Those older than I, tell me to "get used to it" and that time will only go by faster and faster as I get older. Given the past couple of years, I believe it.

It seems like just a few short months ago we began our discussions concerning our future and the decision to move forward with the calling of a rector. Now we are two years down the road and very soon Lori will have been with us for an entire year.

Its mid-January and the vestry has met to wrap up 2008 and begin discussing plans for 2009. Our annual congregational meeting has taken place and a new vestry elected. This vestry has scheduled their annual retreat for early February and the Lenten season and a visit from our Bishop are just around the corner.

I would like to thank all who braved the cold temperatures and snowy conditions to attend service and the annual meeting on January 18th. The meeting was upbeat and included positive

*Please see Sr. Warden on page 3*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### PAGE #

Rector's Reflection: Season After the Epiphany	1
Senior Warden's Notes	1
Junior Warden's Report	2
Annual Spiritual Retreat & Sharon's Salsa Recipe	2
Bishop's Visit March 1st	3
Wednesdays in Lent & Stewardship Thank You	4
Praying for a President	5
A Prayer for President & Nation by Bp. Robinson	5-6
Vestry Minutes	7
Thank You, from the Birchmeier family	8
Shrove Tuesday Pancakes & Calendar	8
Financial Report	9

## Junior Warden Report

by Jim Dietrich

As I am sitting here at my computer this cold Saturday night, I am looking back over the past 11 months and being truly thankful that Mary and I have found the Trinity Family. We had been searching for a time, and we feel truly blessed and honored to be a part of this wonderful congregation!

I want to thank everyone involved in the process for electing (enlisting, railroading, conscripting...) me to the Vestry and the position of Junior Warden. I thank God everyday for Mary and my involvement with Trinity. It is our good fortune and privilege to be here.

By my involvement in Vestry, I am looking forward to assisting in every way possible to help Trinity grow in numbers. I have been in awe of the spirituality and compassion by the entire congregation from the first day we attended! The warm feelings, educational opportunities, and the compassion and assistance to the greater community makes this church a family. All any prospective member needs to do is open themselves up to Trinity, and they will be convinced, "Trinity Is The Place To Be"!

In conclusion, I ask for your prayers to guide me in my duties in the Vestry. The sign in front of Trinity says, "Do Your Best and Jesus Will Do The Rest"! I think that is called Faith and I believe we all can succeed in our goals for growth!

### Invitation from our Ash Wednesday service:

*I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.*

***"Mission, it's been said, is finding out what God is doing and joining in."  
-- Rowan Williams***

## Annual Spiritual Retreat Day for the whole Diocese

A day of worship and meditation  
with Diane Paterson

Topic: "Stay with Me, Remain Here with Me."  
Three Meditations Leading into Holy Week

When: Saturday, March 28, 10 am – 3 pm  
Where: St. John's, Midland  
Cost: \$10

Check [www.eastmich.org](http://www.eastmich.org)  
for details and a registration form.

**LENT**   
Begins on  
February 25th



### Sharon's Salsa Recipe

2 cans confetti corn  
2 cans blackeyed peas  
1 red onion, chopped  
1 bunch green onions  
1 red pepper  
12 cherry tomatoes (sliced)  
Zesty Italian Salad Dressing (less than 1 bottle)  
cilantro to taste  
serve with "scoop" chips

*Sr. Warden from page 1*

reports from 2008. Thanks to the entire congregation for your continued love and support of the Trinity mission. If you do not already have a copy of the annual reports, I urge you to pick up a copy (available in the lounge) and read through the reports from 2008.

Stepping forward to fill five open vestry positions were Michael Busch, Jim Dietrich, Donna Henneke, Sharon Krueger and myself. To Donna and Sharon, thank you for your past service and dedication and willingness to “re-up”. To Michael and Jim, thank you for stepping forward and we look forward to your input and thoughts as we move forward to make Trinity a better place for all. Many thanks also to Lynnette Pepler and Alex Lockhart for your time with us on the vestry.

Following the annual meeting, the new vestry had its initial meeting and elected officers for 2009. Those officers are:

Senior Warden	Norb Birchmeier
Junior Warden	Jim Dietrich
Treasurer	John Rowe
Clerk	Donna Henneke

The new vestry will meet on February 6th and 7th for the annual vestry retreat and begin to make plans for the upcoming year.

Our thanks and congratulations to Jim and Mary Dietrich, Donna Henneke and John Rowe who were elected to serve as convention delegates at the Diocesan Convention in October. Thanks also to the alternates Lynnette Pepler, Denny and Nancy Pickard and June Rowe.

To Denny Pickard, a big thank you as you continue to serve as our Convocation representative.

As in the past, I’m certain congregational growth; both in number and spirituality will continue to be an important goal as we move forward. With support from Lori and the vestry, spiritual growth is a personal and private thing between yourselves and the Lord. Lori and the vestry will do what we can to aid in that growth.

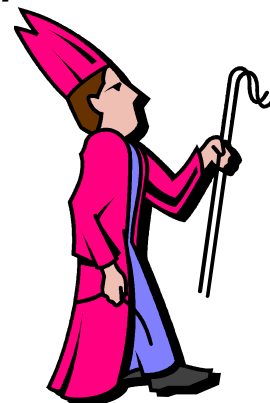
Growth in membership has been a continuum for much of my time as a member of the vestry and can be a test of one’s patience. Growth in leaps and bounds is most likely not a realistic goal, but growth one or two at a time I believe is an attainable goal. To achieve this, we ALL must be do our part to promote Trinity and invite others to join us. Much of what has been done over the past couple of years has been to support growth and behind the scenes small things are being implemented to aid our growth. If you have any ideas or thoughts to assist with our growth, please feel free to discuss your thoughts and ideas with Lori, myself or any other vestry member. Growth cannot happen without input and involvement from all.

As we flip the calendar and look forward to another year together, please keep Lori and the vestry in your prayers and ask the Lord to guide us in whatever path He desires. I conclude by saying “thank you” to each of you. You all make Trinity a wonderful place of worship and fellowship. For a small congregation, we do make a difference, not only for those that share His meal each Sunday, but also to those in the communities and the world around us.

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

Yours in Christ, Norb

### ***Bishop’s Visit – March 1<sup>st</sup> !***



Help us welcome our bishop, Todd Ousley, when he comes to worship with us.

*Epiphany from page 1*

In the Season after the Epiphany our readings have been revealing more to us about Jesus, shedding light on who this babe in the manger, this child sought out by the Magi really is. We are in the last 4 weeks of this season, but I had a thought. In a way, aren't our entire Christian lives a time of Epiphany? If we were to scan the horizon of our lives looking for the Light with the same hope, expectation, and persistence the Magi showed in following the star, how could we not experience God being made manifest in our lives – appearing in new and surprising ways?

Taking it a step farther – I wonder what it would look like if we lived as Epiphany people, seeking Christ and journeying in our faith like current-day Magi? How might Trinity make God manifest to others this year? Where is God's light guiding us?

## Stewardship – Thank You!

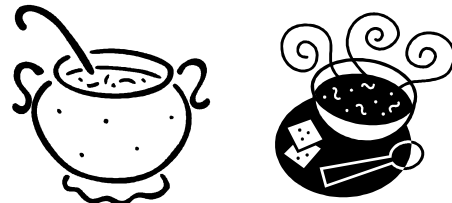
On January 25<sup>th</sup> Trinity gathered in worship and brought ourselves and our pledges before God, offering thanks and asking God's blessings on our gifts of time, talent, and treasure as well as for guidance in the use of these gifts.

I'm sure we'll hear a more detailed report from Denny and John in the future. In the meantime, I would like to say a big "Thank You" to all who have turned in pledges for 2009. Having a clearer idea of financial offerings helps us better plan for ministry and other parish expenses in the coming year. If you'd like to use offering envelopes there is a sign-up sheet in the lounge.

If you haven't yet sent in a pledge card, it's not too late. If you need pledge cards, there are extras in the lounge or you may call the office.

Lastly, in my stewardship letter I shared I'd been working toward a tithe (10%) in my pledging but hadn't reached it yet. In the interest of being transparent I share that my prayerful decision to increase my pledge this year will result in a tithe, if everything goes as planned. Perhaps I will share how it went at the end of the year. ☺  
In Christ, Lori+

## Wednesdays In Lent Soup Supper & Program



During Lent our Monday and Wednesday offerings combine for fellowship & study.

Join us March 4, 11, 18, 25 & April 1  
Supper: 6:00pm & Program: 7:00 – 8:30pm

### An Introduction to World Religions

We'll view 60-minute long DVDs to introduce us to these world religions: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism & Catholicism.

## A Prayer Attributed to Sir Walter Raleigh

Inspire us Lord,  
When we are too well pleased with ourselves,  
When our dreams have come true  
Because we dreamed too little,  
When we arrived safely  
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Inspire us, Lord,  
When with the abundance of things we possess  
We have lost our thirst for the waters of life;  
Having fallen in love with life,  
We have ceased to dream eternity.  
And in our efforts to build a new earth,  
We have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.

Inspire us, Lord,  
To dare more boldly,  
To venture on wider seas where storms will show  
your mastery,  
Where losing sight of land,  
We shall find the stars.  
We ask You to push back the horizon of our hopes,  
And to push us into the future  
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

## Praying for a President

by The Rev. Lori Johnson

It seems a daunting task. I'm not sure I would want it. Think of it. What might you say, where would you even begin, if someone asked you to say a prayer that includes everyone in our nation, a nation that is a melting pot of religious beliefs? What would you pray for a nation and world in troubled times? What might you pray for a people with a new president, mindful that while many are celebrating there are others who hoped a different candidate would win? What would you pray for a new president as he takes on this weighty responsibility? What would you pray for our nation's first president of color? Not an easy task, but someone was willing to try.

On January 18, 2009, at the beginning of inauguration events for President Barack Obama at the Lincoln Memorial, the Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson (bishop of New Hampshire) prayed for our new president and for the nation. There is a variety of opinion in the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion on Bishop Robinson's consecration in 2003, ranging from disagreement to support. It is no secret that a similar variety of opinion was present at Trinity and is part of our history.

Sensitive to Trinity's past, I debated including this prayer. However, we can't pretend that Bishop Robinson is not a member of the Episcopal Church. I also concluded it seems healthier to be honest about our past than avoid it. While we can acknowledge our recent past, we need to remember there is more to our history. One of the things I love about the Episcopal Church is our history of being both/and, of agreeing to disagree. We have often found ourselves on 2 sides of an issue, but because we see richness and value in many voices, we choose to stay connected despite the tension and challenges of living with such diversity.

While diversity in the church enriches us, it's not always easy to hear other voices. Given Trinity's history, some may find it difficult to see Bishop Robinson's prayer. Know you can come talk with me, whatever your response. I've shared this prayer for several reasons. First: to make it available to you since it was not well publicized. Second: this inauguration was a moment in history and the Episcopal Church was present as it unfolded. Lastly, I think if we simply look at the words and spirit of the prayer, we may discover some words worth hearing, some prayers worth praying. Words and prayers we might consider as our nation experiences the time of transition that comes each time a new president takes office. The prayer is found below.

## A Prayer for the Nation and Our Next President, Barack Obama

By The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson, Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire

January 18, 2009 – Lincoln Memorial, Washington, DC

... please join me in pausing for a moment, to ask God's blessing upon our nation and our next president.

O God of our many understandings, we pray that you will...

Bless us with tears – for a world in which over a billion people exist on less than a dollar a day, where young women from many lands are beaten and raped for wanting an education, and thousands die daily from malnutrition, malaria, and AIDS.

*See Prayer page 6*

*Prayer from page 5*

Bless us with anger – at discrimination, at home and abroad, against refugees and immigrants, women, people of color, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

Bless us with discomfort – at the easy, simplistic “answers” we’ve preferred to hear from our politicians, instead of the truth, about ourselves and the world, which we need to face if we are going to rise to the challenges of the future.

Bless us with patience – and the knowledge that none of what ails us will be “fixed” anytime soon, and the understanding that our new president is a human being, not a messiah.

Bless us with humility – open to understanding that our own needs must always be balanced with those of the world.

Bless us with freedom from mere tolerance – replacing it with a genuine respect and warm embrace of our differences, and an understanding that in our diversity, we are stronger.

Bless us with compassion and generosity – remembering that every religion’s God judges us by the way we care for the most vulnerable in the human community, whether across town or across the world.

And God, we give you thanks for your child Barack, as he assumes the office of President of the United States.

Give him wisdom beyond his years, and inspire him with Lincoln’s reconciling leadership style, President Kennedy’s ability to enlist our best efforts, and Dr. King’s dream of a nation for ALL the people.

Give him a quiet heart, for our Ship of State needs a steady, calm captain in these times.

Give him stirring words, for we will need to be inspired and motivated to make the personal and common sacrifices necessary to facing the challenges ahead.

Make him color-blind, reminding him of his own words that under his leadership, there will be neither red nor blue states, but the United States.

Help him remember his own oppression as a minority, drawing on that experience of discrimination, that he might seek to change the lives of those who are still its victims.

Give him the strength to find family time and privacy, and help him remember that even though he is president, a father only gets one shot at his daughters’ childhoods.

And please, God, keep him safe. We know we ask too much of our presidents, and we’re asking FAR too much of this one. We know the risk he and his wife are taking for all of us, and we implore you, O good and great God, to keep him safe. Hold him in the palm of your hand – that he might do the work we have called him to do, that he might find joy in this impossible calling, and that in the end, he might lead us as a nation to a place of integrity, prosperity and peace.

AMEN.

## VESTRY MINUTES

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

VESTRY MEETING  
January 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Lori Johnson at 6:45 p.m. Guests: June Rowe, Dave Krueger, Mike Busch and Jim Dietrich.

Seven Good Things: Christmas decorations in and around the church, full church on Christmas Eve, helpers to decorate church, bells at various services, nineteen people attended "The Nativity" movie, nominations for Vestry are full, coffee hour fellowship.

New Business: The 2009 budget was reviewed and discussed. Denny Pickard made a motion, seconded by Sharon Krueger "to accept the 2009 budget". Unanimous.

Goals and Objectives were reviewed for the upcoming Vestry Retreat. Attendance has increased from 43.67 in 2007 to 43.94 in 2008.

Bishop Ousley will visit Trinity on March 1, 2009 for confirmation.

Shrove Tuesday pancake supper will take place on February 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 p.m.  
A proposed Lenten series was discussed. Ash Wednesday service will be at 7:00 p.m.

The 2008 Parochial Report will be approved in February and will be sent to the Diocese by March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

A check for \$12,000.00 was received from the Building New Ground Grant. The Start-Up Start Over Program will be held September 21st - 25<sup>th</sup> in South Carolina or California. A grant of \$4,000.00 has been approved for this program by the Convocation.

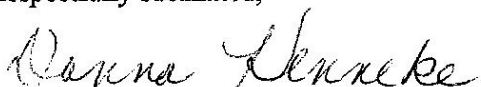
Continuing Business: Annual Meeting to be held on January 18<sup>th</sup> with five openings for Vestry positions. Nominations for Convention delegates and Convocation representative will also be open. The 2009 Vestry Retreat will be held at Kathy's Restaurant on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and on February 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am. - 3:00 p.m. Stewardship Sunday will take place on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Treasurer's report showed December offerings of \$10,288.00 and \$95,833.00 ytd. Net loss for 2008 was (\$7,657.00). Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

Minutes of December 9<sup>th</sup> were approved as written.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Henneke, Clerk

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### February Birthdays:

Frank Jessop	Feb. 5
Tim Judson	Feb. 7
Lori Johnson	Feb. 10
Kathy Boulter	Feb. 12
Austin Boulter, June Rowe	Feb. 13
Ralph Niedecken	Feb. 14
Trudy Mosey	Feb. 15
Tori Lockhart	Feb. 23
Betsy Eller	Feb. 27

*May God Bless  
All on Their  
Special Days !*



## Thank You

We would like to thank our Trinity family for the love, thoughts, prayers, cards and flowers during the loss of our Mother & Grandmother. Your thoughtfulness, presence at the funeral home, phone calls and covering for us when we weren't able to do our jobs at church, offered us such comfort & support. The people of Trinity are so wonderful and we are blessed to have you in our lives.

Norb, Dee, Alex & Tori



## Mark Your Calendar

Mondays:	7pm, Bible Study – Mark for Everyone
Wednesdays:	7pm, Lectionary Discussion Group
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays:	6:30pm, Hooks & Needles
Feb. 5	Men's Breakfast, at Bob Evans
Feb. 6 & 7	Vestry Retreat, Fri 6-9:30pm, Sat 9am-3:30
Feb. 17	Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm
Feb. 24	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Feb. 25	Ash Wednesday – Service at 7:00pm
Mar. 1	Bishop's Visit
Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25 & Apr 1	Lenten Soup Supper 6pm 7:00-8:30pm World Religions DVD w/ discussion
Mar. 8, 15, 22, 29 & Apr 5	9am Lenten Study
Mar. 28	Spiritual Retreat Day for the Whole Diocese St. John's Midland, 10am-3pm

## Pancake Supper Coming Soon! (Bring your appetite)

This is a reminder to put our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on your calendar. Please make sure and do that. The date is Tuesday, February 24, 2009. The time is 6:00 P.M. The place is the undercroft at Trinity Episcopal Church. Everyone is invited. You can ask your friends, neighbors, relatives, etc. The more the merrier. The cost (a free will donation). More information will be coming forth in the next several weeks.

Thank you, Linda Niedecken

## Financial Report

DECEMBER 2008      TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### Financial Report

Balance Sheet

Checking and savings	\$ 17,675
I Investments	\$ 93,988

	Dec 2008	Budget	Dec 2007
. Income			
Offerings	\$10,288	\$ 8,464	\$ 12,690

	YEAR TO DATE - January through December		
	2008	Budget	2007
Income			
Offerings	\$95,833	\$101,579	\$ 97,490
Expenses			
Bldg/Grds	\$14,504	\$ 12,900	\$ 12,257
Commissions	\$ 2,542	\$ 8,065	\$ 2,503
Operational	\$ 8,375	\$ 7,768	\$ 7,706
*Payroll	\$93,267	\$ 98,821	\$ 60,937
Pledges			
Outreach	\$ 8,295	\$ 6,158	\$ 5,841
Diocese	\$10,929	\$10,929	\$ 10,075
*Net Income or (Loss)	(\$7,657)	(\$12,629)	\$ 19,151

- 1-Offerings were \$5,741 less than Budget
- 2-Total Income was \$3,754 less than Budget
- 3-Building expense was \$1,604 over Budget
- 4-Commissions were \$5,522 under Budget
- 5-Operational was \$ 607 over Budget
- 6-Payroll was \$5,553 under Budget

- 7-Loss Was \$4,972 less than Budget
- 8-Building Reserve is down \$8,562 from 2007
- 9-Investments are down \$6,554 from 2007
- 10-Cash is down \$6,584 from 2007

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**“Called to Love and Serve”**

**VESTRY**

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