

THE TRINITY TRUMPET



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

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Remembering all the Saints

by The Rev. Lori Johnson

On Sunday, November 2nd Trinity, along with many other churches around the world will celebrate All Saints Day (which officially falls on November 1st). Many don't realize that All Saints is one of 7 principal feasts in our tradition, which places it in the same category as Christmas and Easter.

The desire to commemorate those who profess the faith and express the communion of both the living and dead in the body of Christ can be dated before the year 270. There are actually 3 days that have been celebrated over time, each with a different focus. All Hallows Eve was a time to make fun of and laugh at things we fear such as death and evil in the world. All Saints originated to remember all who profess the faith, but shifted to those who's faith was known to many (such as St. Francis). But there was still a desire to honor those we have known personally, so, another day was added to celebrate All Souls.

Frederick Buechner says the saints are, "The people we loved. The people who loved us. The people who, for good or ill, taught us things." To honor the people we have loved and learned from we will read their names aloud during the service. If you have someone you would like to remember, please call the office or write their name on the list in the lounge.

Senior Warden's Notes

by Norb Birchmeier

One of the things I often hear from former vestry members is, "I used to know everything that was going on in the congregation, now I know nothing!"

Though we (vestry) believe we are communicating "what is going on", statements like the one above tell us differently. I know we understand the need for consistent and good communications; many times this is easier said than done.

Presently our primary forms of communication consist of the weekly announcements at the end of our service and the monthly *Trumpet* publication that includes articles and pictures of recent events, a parish calendar, vestry meeting minutes and financial information. The Trinity website can also provide information, particularly relating to the calendar of events.

Communication is obviously a two-way street and our leaders need to be able to communicate to the parish and the members need a forum to communicate needs and concerns to the leaders. Good leaders must be willing to listen to the concerns of others, even if those leaders may not agree with what is said.

"In the end communication is a way for us to share our stories and lives together as a Christian Community..."

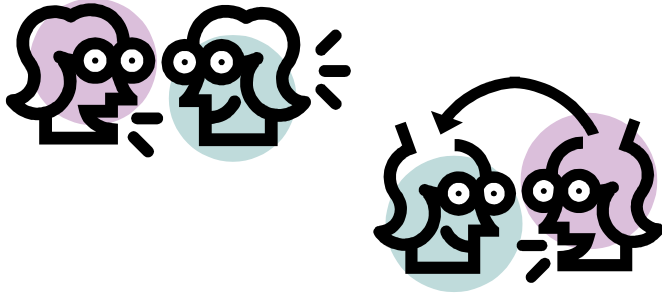
Please see Senior Warden on page 2

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Senior Warden from page 1



With a desire to provide better communication to all and leave no one in the dark, I ask each of you

- How can we better get the word out?
- How best can we invite your comments?
- How can we better communicate with our older members? Those that may not hear all that is said, do not have internet and may not read all that is sent to them.

In the end communication is a way for us to share our stories and lives together as a Christian community and providing good communication to all can only BUILD our community.

Please take the time to think about how we can better communicate to all within the congregation, or if you know of anyone that may have particular concerns, please share your thoughts with myself, a vestry member or Reverend Lori.

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” John 1:1

Yours in Christ, Norb

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

Blanket Drive

**Outreach needs your extra Blankets!
They will be taken to St Andrew’s and
given to the VERY needy.**

**Please bring blankets to the church,
there will be a box for the collection.
Thanks!**

Trinity Outreach Highlights

by Sharon Krueger

The reports from those using the Carriage House seem to be more positive than negative regarding the newly instituted “No Smoking” regulation

There are some windows in the breezeway that need replacement and Dave Krueger will take care of that. The breezeway was completely painted, including the floor, in September. It looks great!

The Committee is not sure they have enough funds to sponsor another tuition scholarship for an MCC student but would at least like to sponsor a book scholarship. That was tabled until the next meeting.

Salem Lutheran Church has said they do not need any monetary donations at this time.

There are many needs at St Andrew’s Episcopal Church. The committee voted to continue to buy \$200 worth of paper products monthly for their meal program. Ann James and Betsy Eller, the “Super Shoppers” will take care of the shopping for the products.

Ann James informed the Committee of a need for new sweat pants and shirts, underwear and socks. The Committee authorized \$300. The articles are given to the very needy by St Andrew’s. Betsy informed the committee that there is also a need for blankets, the Committee voted to begin with a “Blanket Drive” through the church.

Members will continue to look for those who may be in need. The Committee wants to provide help in Flushing and Genesee County.



Grieving for Loved Ones

by The Rev. Lori Johnson

As a parish family we find ourselves mourning the recent death of Larry Pepler and caring for his loved ones. Something occurred to me as I thought about our loss. As we commemorate “saints” in our lives on November 1 and the holidays approach, we may find ourselves missing our loved ones anew. With these things in mind it seems a good time to talk about grief.

How We Grieve

Grief is usually experienced because of the death of someone we care for, but grief is a reaction to any loss including: loss of a job, home, or a relationship. People grieve in their own way and in their own time, but there are some emotions that are common reactions to loss. We don't necessarily experience them in order, or just once. We may bounce between them, feel more than one at a time, or cycle through them often as we grieve. Reactions we may experience are: Shock, Denial, Anger, Guilt, Sadness, Acceptance and Growth. Grief not only affects us emotionally, but can also affect us physically impacting such things as our appetite or ability to sleep, or may affect us cognitively impacting things like our ability to concentrate.

Grieving is slow, hard work. Because grief hurts, some try to hurry through or avoid it, but people seem to cope best by taking one step at a time and allowing themselves to feel emotions as they come. Eventually the pain we feel becomes less raw and we begin to heal. However, because grieving is a process we may at times be surprised by emotions as circumstances remind us of our loved one.

Ministering to the Bereaved

Many of us want to reach out and do something, but are uncertain how to care for the bereaved. We may feel helpless, knowing we can't “fix” what is hurting them. Finding ourselves confused about what to do and uncertain about what to say, we may inadvertently end up doing nothing. What then can we do to support someone who is grieving, and what can we ask of others when we mourn for loved ones ourselves?

Please see Grieving on page 4

The Organ Bench

by Eileen Nagy

CANDLEWALK NEWS: We have an invitation from the Flushing Candlewalk Committee to participate in the Candlewalk on Dec. 4 and 5. We could choose one or both of the days. If 6 people were interested in playing hand chimes for this event, we could (with warm gloves) play Carols on the hand chimes and have walkers stop and sing with us. I need to know by Nov. 7 in order to submit the application on time.



Christmas Wreath Sale!

It's time for our annual Christmas Wreath sale – a major fundraiser at Trinity.

The wreaths are fresh, mixed greens decorated with a waterproof velvet bow and pinecones.

The wreaths sell for \$25

Orders are due by November 15th with delivery the week after Thanksgiving.

It is possible to have earlier delivery. Also, larger wreaths are available.

Co-chairpersons are:
Ann James, 810-230-1373 and
Debbie Josling, 810-638-5125

Dave Krueger, 810-659-9552
is in charge of manufacturing.

If you did not get an order sheet in the mail, please call the church for one.

Grieving continued from page 3

Instead of saying, “call if you need anything” which is ambiguous, we can offer to help with specific things such as errands, providing a meal, or help with household chores like mowing the lawn. Call or send a note so they know they aren’t alone – mealtimes and evenings can be difficult after a busy day.

Some people wonder if they should use the name of the deceased because they want to avoid causing additional pain to those who mourn. Hearing the name of a loved one can be comforting, and lets us know this important person in our lives has not been forgotten.

Honest words such as, “I am so sorry,” “he/she will be missed” (and sharing a fond memory of the person), or even “I don’t know what to say,” are more helpful than clichés. Try to spend the same time (or more) with the person who is bereaved as in the past. If they cry in your presence let them know it’s okay, and that they shouldn’t feel a need to put on a happy face or play host/hostess. Just sitting with a person, and being willing to listen if they feel like talking may be our most caring gift.

You Can Call Me

Lastly, if you find yourself grieving for someone and you’d like to talk about it, or just want someone to sit with you, know we can always arrange a time to get together. If it’s urgent, please call me.

In Christ, Lori+

Harvest Festival

On Saturday, October 4th, Trinity participated in the Flushing Harvest Festival. The day’s festivities occurred downtown and it was a fun day! Many thanks to Ann James who found the finger-puppet activity and Sharon Krueger for entering the Chalk Art contest. Other volunteers included: Dee & Norb Birchmeier, Rebecca & Claire Jess, Betsy Eller, Shirley St. John, Nancy & Denny Pickard, and Rev. Lori.



VESTRY MINUTES

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

VESTRY MEETING

October 14, 2008

The meeting was called or order with prayer by Rev Lori Johnson at 6:40 p.m. Absent: Lynnette Pepler. Guests: Vause Carlsen, Linda Niedecken and Dave Krueger.

Seven Good Things:

Exterior landscaping and new doors, Lori's funeral service, Harvest festival with hand puppets and chalk art, visitor at coffee hour, thanks to Trinity volunteers for the church convention, movie gathering, and visit to the Labyrinth.

New Business:

Discussion on chapters 1 and 2 of "Five Keys for Church Leaders".

Nominations will be accepted for 2009 Vestry openings. Flyers will be distributed for the annual upcoming wreath sale.

Continuing Business:

A letter was sent to the Convocation itemizing the expenditures of the BNG grant money received relating to the recruitment of Rev Lori.

Memorial plaques will be placed near the new doors, exterior beautification project and the doors leading into the sanctuary.

Treasurer's report showed offerings down in September. YTD we are under budget. Enclosed with the third quarter statements will be the sealed commitment envelopes along with a letter regarding stewardship. The Finance Committee has requested passing expenditures through their committee first.

There will be a sign up sheet for remembrances for All Saints Day.

Minutes of the September 9th meeting were approved as written.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Henneke, Clerk

November Birthdays

BIRTHDAYS

Brenda Trehella	Nov 4
Rebecca Jess, Madison Ellis	Nov 6
Betty Jacobs	Nov 8
Herbert Booth	Nov 9
Donna Jessop	Nov 23
Sharla Dorhout	Nov 29



*May God
Bless All
on Their
Special Days !*

Mark Your Calendar

Mondays: 7pm, Bible Study – DVD series

Wednesdays: 7pm, Lectionary Discussion Group

2nd & 4th Thursdays: 6:30pm, Hooks & Needles

Sundays: 9am, Adult Ed Class “Spiritual Disciplines”

Progressive Dinner, 5:00pm Nov. 1

Time Change – Turn clocks back 1 hour! Nov. 2

All Saints Day Observed Nov. 2

November Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm Nov. 11

Rev. Lori Works Happening Weekend Nov. 21 – 23

Thanksgiving Thursday Nov. 27

First Sunday of Advent Nov. 30

Movie Night

On October 2nd Rebecca Jess organized a trip to the movies to see “Fireproof.”

The movie is about a fireman on the brink of divorce. His father challenges him to approach his marriage with the same love that God has for us.

We had a good time. Moviegoers included: Rebecca and Claire Jess, Nancy Pickard, Jim and Mary Dietrich and Rev. Lori. We hope to do another movie trip in the future.



Financial Report

SEPTEMBER 2008 TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Balance Sheet			
Checking and savings			\$ 12,215
Investments			\$ 92,990
	Sept. 2008	Budget	Sept. 2007
<hr/>			
Income			
Offerings	\$ 7,318	\$ 8,464	\$ 8,560
	YEAR TO DATE	- January through September	
	2008	Budget	2007
<hr/>			
Income			
Offerings	\$66,827	\$ 76,184	\$ 70,805
Expenses			
Bldg/Grds	\$15,688	\$ 9,625	\$ 9,375
Commissions	\$ 3,132	\$ 6,048	\$ 1,369
Operational	\$ 6,257	\$ 5,826	\$ 5,575
* Payroll	\$69,608	\$ 67,615	\$ 45,791
Pledges			
*Outreach	\$ 4,158	\$ 4,618	\$ 4,252
Diocese	\$ 8,196	\$ 8,196	\$ 7,475
*Net Income or (Loss)	(\$13,151)	(\$ 4,272)	\$ 11,097

- * Relief Fund sent to Flood Victims in Midwest \$2,048.95
- * Received \$15,000 from Breaking New Ground
- * Received \$ 9,774 from Convocation for Recruiting in August
- * Paid \$3,974 for Building and Grounds
- * Paid \$4,454 for Pension Plan

Fall Stewardship Note:

Stewardship is not just about finances and budgets. One definition of stewardship is: "What I do, with all that I have, after I say, "I believe." So stewardship has to do with our whole selves (time, talent & treasure) as well as how we care for God's creation. Stewardship is not just a Fall activity, but something to be thinking about year-round. However, the reality is that parishes do need financial donations in order to engage in various ministries. In the coming weeks as we look towards 2009, you will be hearing from us regarding the financial commitment aspect of stewardship.

Trinity Episcopal Church

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“Called to Love and Serve”

VESTRY

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Sunday Service Time 10:00 a.m.

