

# THE TRINITY TRUMPET



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*"Autumn is a  
second spring  
when every  
leaf is a flower."  
- Albert Camus*

## Rector's Reflection

### "Autumn Transitions"

by The Rev. Lori Johnson

I sat in my office and looked out the window and noticed Autumn had truly arrived. The wind blew, the leaves drifted down from the trees, there was a chill in the air, and some rain. Autumn is seen as a season of transition from warm to cold weather. A bridge from Summer into Winter that is bursting with colors, and time for the harvest.

Norb and I have noted in recent months that Trinity is experiencing a time of transition. True, our lives are constantly in transition, but at times it is more obvious than others. At the moment, all one has to do is look around Trinity to see it.

New things: rector, secretary, service time, planters and plants outside, doors, and newsletter format, among other things (photos in this issue). It's been a busy 6 months!

Sometimes change creates anxiety because we were used to things one way and it's hard to see where we're headed. Sometimes it creates excitement as one looks to possibilities of the future, hopeful that seeds that have been planted will grow something wonderful. Or we may have a mixed reaction. These reactions are all normal.

As Trinity lives into our time of transition, know that the leadership values the core of who Trinity has been. We want to hold onto that identity even as we explore ways to plant new seeds in our lives and community. Seeds that we pray will reap a bountiful harvest.

## Senior Warden's Notes

### "Called to Love and Serve"

by Norb Birchmeier

2008 is quickly coming to a close and it is not too early to begin thinking about 2009. Traditionally, October is the month our present vestry begins to discuss possible candidates for election at our annual meeting in January.

When I have asked the question, "Would you be interested in serving as a vestry member?" it has been answered in a wide range of ways, including

- "I'll do it if you can't get anyone else."
- "Maybe, let me think about it."
- "Talk to me next year."
- "Not interested!"
- "Already served my time!"
- "I am not ready for that."
- "I do not have the time."
- "I do not know enough about what is going on to be on the vestry" and,
- "ARE YOU KIDDING ME!"

Have you thought about serving on the vestry and if asked, how would you answer this question?

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 take time to seriously consider and pray about becoming a vestry member again or for the first time.

*Please see Senior Warden on page 2*

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Senior Warden from page 1

I'd like to share some of my experiences/time as a vestry member.

- I first became a vestry member to get involved, find out what was happening and probably out of a sense of duty.
- Because of what was happening within the congregation, my first few years as a vestry member would be considered "frustrating" at best.
- The past 4 years have been a joy, because:
  - All involved have truly cared about the well being of the congregation and though there may have been differences, all decisions were made in a conscious effort to do what was best for Trinity as a whole.
  - The time gathered together as a vestry, has allowed all to be at ease and comfortable with one another, as though we are a family, allowing for open discussions.
  - My time on the vestry and particularly as Senior Warden has allowed me the pleasure to get to know **all** of you 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 look for answers. Admittedly, I have a long way to go in my daily conversations, prayers and devotions and continue to be a work in progress.

Having been a member of Trinity since 1999 and serving on the vestry in various capacities since 2000 either as a full term member or filling in as an interim, some may say I am a glutton for punishment. I prefer to think of it as a labor of love and an opportunity to serve the Lord in a way like no other. It aids me in keeping the Lord at the top of my list and reminds me of all that is good in the world.

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 being a vestry member 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.

Yours in Christ, Norb

*Vestry: "I prefer to think of it as a labor of love and an opportunity to serve the Lord in a way like no other."*

## Thank You Rebecca!

by The Rev. Lori Johnson



On behalf of the Trinity Family I'd like to say a big "Thank You!" to Rebecca Jess. Rebecca and her family have faithfully worked on our Trinity Trumpet newsletter for the last year and a half. As I preached on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, part of discernment of where God is calling us to use our gifts is knowing when to say "yes" and when to say "no." Rebecca has discerned that it is time to give up the ministry of the newsletter to make room for other ministry opportunities.

Given this change, the Trumpet is currently being done in the church office. Articles are best submitted electronically emailed to the parish or to Lori's email address. You may notice a new look as we try a new format.

## The Organ Bench

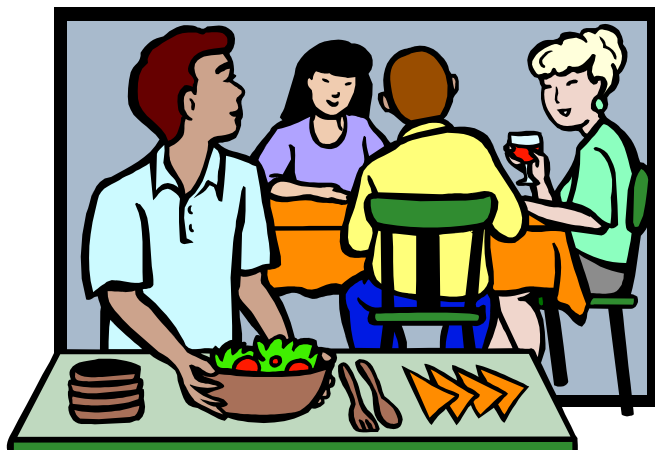
By Eileen Nagy

As written last month, there are many reasons for picking hymns for any given Sunday, to help us understand the message in the lessons that day, to enhance our personal worship experience, or as part of the seasonal message, are some reasons.

Another way to enhance our personal experience is to add personal favorites.

So here is your chance for requests and input. Below is a tear-off slip for you to submit favorite hymn requests. On the table in the lounge, there will be several hymnbooks from which to choose your

selections. Also a box to drop in your slip. Hymnbook name and page number need to be included so we can track your selection as well as be sure of the copyright. Submit as many selections as you wish.



## Fall Progressive Dinner

As in the last several years, plans are underway for a Fall Progressive Dinner. This is a fun time for the Trinity family to get together to break bread outside of Sunday worship, to have fellowship with one another, and get to know one another better as we are graced by the gift of hospitality of those who open up their homes to us.

This year the progressive dinner will take place on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The dinner will take place at 3 to 4 houses as we travel to a new place for each course. More details will be announced by Donna Henneke who is planning this event as the date draws nearer.

Please plan to join us!

### Hymn Request Form

**Hymn Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hymnbook Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

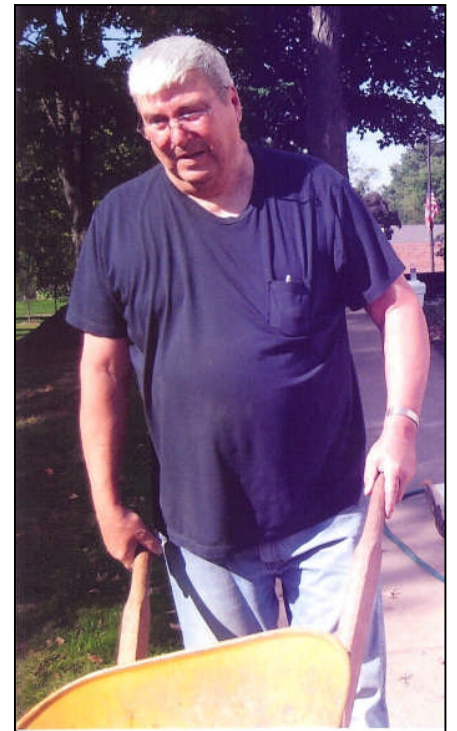
**Page #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You!**

## Outdoor Beautification Project

Over the course of the summer we had some planters built and vines removed as a first stage in our outdoor beautification project. We would like to offer our gratitude to parishioner Deb Rubey for her involvement in this project. Deb is a master gardener and gave us advice on the design and the choice of plants.

On September 20<sup>th</sup> the next stage was completed as parishioners met to plant our new plants. The result is beautiful. Many thanks to those who got their hands dirty (hopefully nobody is missing from this list): Jack Carlsen, Norb Birchmeier, Lynette Pepler, Paul St. John, Donna & Ed Henneke, Frank Jessop, Ann James, Betsy Eller, and Harold Blight.



## New Doors at Trinity

Thanks to a gift to Trinity by the DeGalan's and the hard work of Donna Henneke and Donna Jessop, Trinity now has beautiful new doors! The doors were installed over the last 2 weeks. If you are a person who needs a key to the doors and haven't yet picked one up, please contact the office. Also a thank you in advance to Jim and Mary Dietrich who have graciously agreed to paint and stain our new doors.



## Trip to the Labyrinth

On Saturday, Sept. 27 seven of us took a field trip to walk the Labyrinth (one of many ways to pray) that is on Deacon Donna Kusky's property in Birch Run.



## October Birthdays and Anniversaries

### BIRTHDAYS

Helen Notman	Oct. 3
Tom McNally	Oct. 5
Paul St. John	Oct. 6
Lisa Judson	Oct. 13
Don Erickson	Oct. 16
Jim Rundell	Oct. 16
Linda Niedecken	Oct. 18
Anne Stone	Oct. 20
Brenda Leffen	Oct. 21
Gordon Hitchcock	Oct. 27



*May God  
Bless All  
on Their  
Special Days !*

### ANNIVERSARIES

John & June Rowe	Oct. 1
Robert & Beth Michels	Oct. 8
Tim & Lisa Judson	Oct. 13
Norb & Deanna Birchmeier	Oct. 14
John & Dorothy West	Oct. 30

## Mark Your Calendar

Mondays: 7pm, Bible Study – DVD series	
Wednesdays: 7pm, Lectionary Discussion Group	
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays: 6:30pm, Hooks & Needles	
Sundays: 9am, Adult Ed Class “Spiritual Disciplines”	
Flushing Harvest Festival 10am-5pm	Oct. 4
Oct. Vestry Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	Oct. 14
Diocesan Convention, St. Paul’s Flint	Oct. 17 & 18
Progressive Dinner, 5:00pm	Nov. 1
Nov. Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm	Nov. 11

## Comfort Covers

by The Rev. Vause Carlsen

The happy faces in the photo to the right belong to oncology nurses at Hurley Medical Center. They hold a few of many Comfort Covers made by prisoners at the Thumb Correctional Facility in Lapeer. Trinity donated the yard, the men crocheted the covers and Trinity delivered them to Hurley. All have been given to patients as gifts to wrap them in God’s love and warmth.



## Financial Report

August 2008 TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH Financial Report

### Balance Sheet

Checking and savings	\$ 14,492
I Investments	\$ 92,551

	August 2008	Budget	August 2007
Income			
Offerings	\$ 6,840	\$ 8,464	\$ 6,080

	YEAR TO DATE - January through August		
	2008	Budget	2007
Income			
Offerings	\$59,509	\$ 67,719	\$ 62,045
Expenses			
Bldg/Grds	\$14,679	\$ 8,533	\$ 8,985
Commissions	\$ 2,701	\$ 5,376	\$ 1,175
Operational	\$ 5,505	\$ 5,178	\$ 4,967
* Payroll	\$62,250	\$ 59,713	\$ 38,999
Pledges			
Outreach	\$ 3,660	\$ 4,105	\$ 3,730
Diocese	\$ 7,286	\$ 7,286	\$ 6,608
*Net Income or (Loss)	(\$10,606)	(\$ 585)	\$ 11,076

- \* 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



*“Summer turns into autumn, then into winter and into spring. Once we complete the cycle, we then start all over again. Transitions are a constant thing, they happen every day. Knowing I should expect them makes it easier along the way. The only thing that is constant in life is the inevitability of change. To have a life lacking in change, to me, would just seem strange.”*

An excerpt from “Transitions” by Jeff Rogers

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**“Called to Love and Serve”**

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