

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TRINITY GRAND LEDGER

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2009



Even for someone from the north, this has been a cold winter! But when I think of the Sundays, I do have warm memories of January. On January 4, we said farewell to **Alayna Young** and wished her well in her new position. (Later there was an article in the Lansing State Journal about her appointment!) On January 18, **Jonathan Lowe** preached and at coffee hour gave a power-point presentation about his life and work as a missionary in Bolivia. His dedication is inspiring! On January 25, there was a potluck and the **Annual Meeting**. We counted our many blessings and discussed our challenges. I thank you as well for your dedication.

We extend our thanks to the outgoing vestry members, Brent Bedaine and Brandon Salisbury who have completed their terms. For the 2009 vestry, we welcome Sallee Anderson, Roger Lee, and Paul Viles who were elected to this year's vestry. At the vestry meeting following the **Annual Meeting**, **Sallee Anderson** was elected as Senior Warden, and **John Lanese** was elected as Junior Warden. Thank you to the other vestry members, Yvonne Fleener and Marian Stolz. Thank you also to Judy Viles, Treasurer, and Bev. Seling, Recording Secretary. The 2009 vestry is very strong and committed to the furthering of God's Kingdom in Grand Ledge, and for this I am truly thankful.

In spite of my gratitude, I am ready to spread some dirt on you! **Ash Wednesday** is just around the corner, and on that day we remember that we are 'but dust and to dust we shall return'.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 25**. On Ash Wednesday there will be three services so that one of these might fit into your schedule. These services will be in conjunction with Immanuel Lutheran Church.

7 am	Immanuel Lutheran Church on East Clinton
12 noon	Trinity Episcopal
7 pm	Immanuel Lutheran

The imposition of ashes will be available at each of these Ash Wednesday liturgies.

Ash Wednesday is one of two **fast** days that are required in the Episcopal Church. (The other is Good Friday.) On fast days we abstain from food so that we may pray. Weight loss will only be a side benefit! We abstain from food by fasting to regain control over our many appetites. Enjoy time with God and consider how you might live.

Wednesday Bible Studies at 2 and 7:30 pm will continue on February 4, 11, and 18 and then not again until after Easter. (On February 25, Ash Wednesday, there will be fasting and services.)

Wednesdays in Lent will begin with **Evening Prayer** in the church at **5:30**, **Soup supper** in the undercroft at **6 pm**, and a presentation that will follow supper. The dates are **March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1**. (During **Holy Week**, there will be **no Wednesday** service, soup and study, that is, on April 8.)

Holy Week: Palm/Passion Sunday is April 5. **Maundy Thursday** is April 9. There will be an **All Night Watch** until Friday morning. **Good Friday** is April 10, **Easter Vigil** is April 11. **Easter Sunday** is April 12. Please mark your calendars now.

Trinity Church is participating in seminar with Western Theological Seminary of Holland, Michigan, about **healthy mainline parishes** and how they became that way at the end of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first century. The vestry and others who are interested in **parish growth** will want to read Diana Butler Bass's book '**Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church Is Transforming the Faith**', which is the reading material for the seminar. All interested parishioners are welcome to attend a session at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lansing, from 10 am to 2 pm on **Saturday March 14**. You are also welcome to attend a day with Diana Butler Bass in Grand Rapids on **Saturday May 30**.

Diana Butler Bass, a church historian, received a \$700,000 grant from the Lily Foundation to spend 3 ½ years studying fifty successful and healthy mainline congregations of all denominations and sizes to evaluate how they were flourishing under the Spirit's guidance. '**Christianity for the Rest of Us**' is the result of this study and is becoming an important tool for congregational development in this day and age.

During the **Wednesday Evening Lenten programs**, I will present recordings from portions of her lectures at a conference that I participated in with her during the last week of January. You will enjoy listening to her! She is a great story-teller. You will enjoy discussing her findings in relation to our parish and other local churches. **Please invite your non-Episcopal friends** to join us for **Wednesdays in Lent**.

'**Christianity for the Rest of Us**' by Diana Butler Bass was published by HarperSanFrancisco in 2006

The next **Sunday morning breakfast** is February 22 at 9 am.

The **Annual Report** was not printed this year but will be available online unless you request a printed copy. Financial information will be available only in printed form. Please call the church office to obtain this important information.

My Annual Report provides many details of a very busy year in the life of Trinity Parish. Please read it on line!

May God richly bless you in His service,

Nixon+

Trinity History

The first service at Trinity was held on Easter in 1913. Construction began in 1911 on land given for the purpose by George N. Berry, a local banker. An Episcopal mission had existed in Grand Ledge since 1875 served by visiting priests. In 1907 twelve ladies organized by Mrs. Cassius Alexander began the effort to establish the parish, culminating in the construction of the church and admission to the dioceses in

the fall of 1912.

The twelve irreplaceable windows of Belgian leaded glass are of special interest. They depict the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The church is served originally by an Austin pipe organ then rebuilt and enlarged from a four-rank instrument to eight ranks.

Needlepoint in the sanctuary has been locally designed and worked by

members of the parish. Nine different pieces are covered with the needle-point portraying the cross in several different forms. Brass plates all over the church indicate gifts to the church such as those made in the 1940's by the Berry family of a carved oak lectern, chancel rail and pulpit. Brass appointments and a carved screen depicting Mary and John can be seen on the altar.

Bible Study

Bible study will begin continue on Wednesday, February 4, 11, and 18, at 2 and 7:30 p.m.

All are welcome to attend.

Indoor Clean up Day

Trinity's had a great clean up day in January.

The back storage room, behind the boilers, the music office, closet outside the music office and the Sunday school room were all cleaned out.

Many treasurers were found and reorganized.

If you are using one of these room, please remember to pick up after yourself or your children, to help keep everything in order.

Chili Cook Off

Special Thanks goes out to Bev Seling and Cliff Knaggs for being the only

two entries in this years Chili cook off.

United Thank Offering

You have been reading in this newsletter of the United Thank Offering. Here are the answers to a few of your questions.

Our parish forwards our local ingathering to our Diocesan Coordinator who then forwards it to the national UTO office in New York. In New York, these monies are immediately put to work earning interest until they are granted. By combining the offerings, it is possible to fund significant projects that make a real difference in the work of the Episcopal Church in the Anglican Communion and a real difference in people's lives.

Each year, 100 % of the collected money is granted. UTO Committee expenses are supported entirely through earned income from dedicated trust funds. The National Church supports a staff of two people

in the UTO office located in the Episcopal Church Center in New York City.

What kinds of things does UTO fund? The list is long and varied: kitchen equipment for a homeless shelter, playground for a child-care center, handicap access in church and service buildings, a school in the Dominican Republic, family counseling, a dental clinic for the poor, half-way houses, after-school programs, vans and other vehicles, a library for a seminary in Africa and a Bishop's house in a new overseas diocese.

So you can see that small offerings when combined can do wonderful things.

The UTO ingathering here at Trinity will be held on Sunday, March 15th at both services.

Getting to Know You

Cliff Knaggs is a man of many varied interests and a gourmet cook whose unequaled Irish Stew has brought Trinity the coveted St. Patty's Day trophy for four out of its five years of its existence. Not limiting his culinary talents to stew making, Cliff's expertise in the kitchen turns out popular dishes for pot lucks and chili-cook-offs, earning Trinity its reputation as the best fed congregation in town

As an avid gardener and enthusiastic hunter, the food he prepares is often food he bagged on one of his annual hunting trips. This year's prize was an elk which he shot in Colorado. He prefers hunting elk or deer and pheasants with the help of his dogs Sarge and Jake.

Cliff was born in Lansing and attended school in Olivet where he met and married Jill Michael in 1974. In 1975, he enlisted in the Army and was stationed

at Ft. Knot in Kentucky and Ft. Eustis in Virginia. He served with the 101st Air Borne at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, until 1978 when he joined the Michigan National Guard. Leaving Active duty, he enrolled at LCC with a degree as a para-legal and worked for the Attorney General's department until 1988. In 1983 he attended Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, Georgia, then went on to flight school at Ft. Rucker, Alabama.

The Knaggs family moved to Grand Ledge in 1985 and Cliff began his study in law at Cooley Law School in Lansing. Which he graduated from 20 years ago. Following graduation, he was employed by a Detroit based law firm until he started his own practice, Knaggs, Harter, Brake and Schneider, in 1993. In 2003, he built his own building on Westshire Dr. in Delta Township. Since joining Trinity in 1988, the Knaggs have been busy members with Cliff serving on the Vestry

and three terms as Senior Warden with Jill being indispensable as church secretary. Following family tradition, Michael Knaggs and his wife, Laura, being active in Bible School and other church activities with the help of daughters Elyssa, Abigail and Alexandra. The youngest son, Daniel, served as youth representative on the Vestry and is following his father with plans for a law career.

Both Cliff and Jill are mainstays of the Trinity Golf League but with his many other interests, he still finds time to raise beef cattle on the family home acreage on Mt. Hope. Hwy.

Prayers

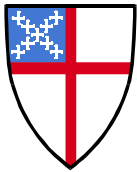
Please continue to keep Betty Jones and Michael West in your prayers, following their hospital stays.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.TRINITYPEOPLE.ORG



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Our Mission Statement

Trinity Episcopal Church is an inclusive environment, open to everyone, actively promoting God's love in our community and the world through liturgical worship and outreach.

Interim Priest

The Rev. J. Nixon McMillan 248.978.5537 cell
517.706.0150 home
email fr.mcmillan@trinitypeople.org

Service Schedule

Sunday: Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m..

Vestry email: vestry@trinitypeople.org

Member	Sallee Anderson	(1/2012)	627.4864
Member	Marian Stolz	(1/2011)	627.7712
Member	Paul Viles	(1/2012)	282.2354
Member	John Lanese	(1/2011)	626.6410
Member	Roger Lee	(1/2010)	627.6614
Member	Yvonne Fleener	(1/2010)	898.9420
Recording Clerk	Bev Seling		627.7052

Treasurer

Judy Viles 517-282.2354

Parish Secretary & Newsletter

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