

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TRINITY GRAND LEDGER

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3 MARCH 2009



Spring is just around the corner! This winter seems to have been more cold and blustery than usual. I am looking forward to finished with this weather. Choir member Kalmin Smith wonders why some resourceful graduate student hasn't obtained a grant to study why the weather has been worst on Sunday mornings. Until that time, God only knows.

Over the second weekend in February, I was on vacation in Canada, and I thank the Rev. Len Brinkmoeller, recently retired Rector of Trinity Church, Marshall, for preaching and presiding. I am pleased that he is willing to return!

Thanks to Gary Lowery and family for cooking and presenting breakfast on Sunday February 22. As usual, when Gary is in the kitchen, everything comes out hot and delicious.

Thanks also to Jim Cruickshank who clears our walks throughout the winter. This winter has been very demanding and I am very appreciative of Jim's total dependability even when it means being at the church at 7 am on Sunday morning. Thank you Jim for taking on one of the least desirable and anonymous tasks at the church!

Thanks to the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper kitchen crew: Duane Falor, Jim Cruickshank, and Tom Anderson, who provided both the provisions and the recipe. One of the parish's leading culinary experts with whom I am most familiar gave this meal a top rating!

Thanks also for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper dining room crew: Bill, Eryn, and Trey Fleener for serving and cleaning up. The experience they had with the World Outreach Dinner made the Pancake Supper seem very, very simple!

Thanks to those who are playing the organ. Marian Stolz was cruising for two weeks in February with her medically improved husband, Don. Thanks to Marian for all of the things that she so capably does at the church in addition to playing the organ, and to Meredith Hines and Cindy Buchweitz who filled in during Marian's absence!

Thanks to all of you who make this volunteer-energized parish what it is. Thank you for the good humored way in which you assume responsibilities. I am grateful!

The Ash Wednesday combined services with Immanuel Lutheran Church were at 7, noon, and 7. Thanks to Pastor Rick for celebrating at these services. Our relationship with our Lutheran neighbors is a happy one!

Wednesday Bible Studies at 2 and 7:30 pm will continue in April, after Easter.

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 supper, and study. Nothing on April 8.)

Soup will be provided by Ann McMillan on March 4, Bev Seling on March 11, and Sallee Anderson on March 18. There are only two opportunities left. Call the office now to take your turn!

Please mark your calendars now.

Holy Week: Palm/Passion Sunday is April 5.

Maundy Thursday is April 9.

After the Maundy Thursday evening service, 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.

I again remind you that since the 1950s will not return, and since 'nostalgia is the enemy of hope', 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**. **Please call the church office to have lunch reserved for you.**

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 in which I participated 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 with relation to our parish and other local churches. **Please invite your non-Episcopal friends** to join us for **Wednesdays in Lent**. Their churches will be mentioned in Dr. Bass's study even though this Methodist-raised, former mega-church member has now embraced Episcopalianism.

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

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

Remember that 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.

Please remember to read online my Annual Report, which provides many details of a very busy year in the life of Trinity Parish.

I am about to begin visiting all of the parish families. Please expect a call. I have questions. I hope that we will look for the answers together.

May God richly bless you in His service,

Nixon+

United Thank Offering Ingathering

The UTO ingathering will be held Sunday, March 15th at both services. The 'Blue Boxes' have been/are available at the church.

The best way to handle your thank offering is to count the money in your 'Blue Box' and transfer that amount to a check made out to Trinity Episcopal with UTO in the memo line. Then replace your 'Blue Box' in a place where you will see it and continue dropping in your

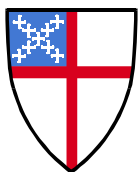
change until the next ingathering. The treasurer will then write one check to the diocesan coordinator for our contribution. UTO envelopes will be available at the church on the 15th

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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