

January 2010
Volume 28, Issue 1

Trinity Times

The Newsletter of the Trinity Presbyterian Church – East Brunswick

Inside This Issue

Kathy's Corner	2
Heifer International Trip	2
Disciples on the Path	3
January Worship Schedule	3
January Birthdays	3
Ask the Pastor	4
Remember Your Own Baptism	4
The Olive Branch	5
Trinity Chili Cook-Off	6
New Year's Day	6
Greening the Cleaning	7
A Prayer for the New Year	7
Adult Education Offerings	8
Good Advice on Pain-Free Life	9
Thought for the Month	10

Upcoming Events

- ❖ New Year's Day
January 1, 2010
- ❖ Feast of the Epiphany / Three Kings Day
January 6, 2010
- ❖ Baptism of the Lord Sunday
January 10, 2010
- ❖ Deacon Sunday
January 17, 2010
- ❖ Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 18, 2010
- ❖ National Pie Day
January 23, 2010
- ❖ Groundhog Day
February 2, 2010
- ❖ Super Bowl Sunday
February 7, 2010

Pastor's Message



As the year past comes to an end and a new one births before our very eyes, I find myself looking back at 2009 with an incredible amount of thanks, while looking ahead with an incredible amount of hope. To be sure, lots of amazing things happened within and around our community of faith this past year – too many to name here! However, I do want to share just some of what I'm thankful and hopeful for this year.

Thanks for Christian Education. The Sunday school and nursery program has blossomed, growing by 50 percent this year thanks to amazing leaders, committed teachers and parents who take their children's Christian education seriously. What's more, adult Christian education continues to grow as more and more adults reveal a higher level of commitment to their own spiritual growth and faith formation.

For all of this, I give thanks, but also reflect much hope – hope for continued growth in children's ministries; hope for yet more reason to further expand our nursery program; and hope for more participation in Sunday morning adult

spiritual formation opportunities and *THE WELL* bursting at the seams!

Thanks for Small Groups. When we birthed Small Groups more than two years ago, no one knew what this ministry could be. But now, over 140 of you have grown to love this ministry. As a result, some of our leaders are being asked to lead seminars at the presbytery on small group ministry and their potential for the church.

For all of this, I give thanks, but also reflect much hope – hope for continued growth in our small group ministry; hope that more members will decide to taste this ministry; and hope that more members will hear the call to lead a small group themselves.

Thanks for Mission. I give thanks for the hands-on ministries coordinated with such love by our Mission Commission. Yet I specifically lift thanks for all who serve at Elijah's Promise each month, the New Brunswick Men's Shelter each winter, and for Trinity's special FISH coordinators and each and every faithful soul who comes to serve meals, offer

(Continued on Page 5)

The Riepl effect

This month's Disciple on the Path is Frank Riepl.

Every January at the Congregational Meeting, we receive a report that tells us that our financial reports are in order and all of the church accounts are balanced.

Have you ever wondered just how that happens? Well, each year a group gets together and audits "the books" so that there is impartial oversight on the financial records of the church.

The Audit Committee examines the books of Property and Finance to assure that all procedures are being followed and that our assets are fairly stated and presented to the congregation. The

(Continued on Page

5)

Kathy's Corner

Children and their families are invited to join us on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 9a.m. as we celebrate the anniversary of our baptisms. We will explore the meaning of baptism and how our baptism is not simply a one-time event but something that lives with us forever.

There will be plenty of goodies on hand and lots of fun as we work together to live into our baptism. We will then continue the festivities in our worship service at 10:15 as we participate in a reaffirmation of our baptism. So please plan to join us for this wonderful event.



Kathy Genus

Many, many, many thanks!

We were so blessed here at Trinity by the sharing of so many gifts and hands for our annual Christmas Pageant and breakfast. The day was truly wonderful and we extend our gratitude to all who were involved.

(Continued on Page 6)

New date set for trip to Massachusetts farm

We all are busy and have many commitments, and the idea of traveling with children and staying overnight is challenging. While all of these things are very true, we are asking you to prayerfully consider joining the Christian Education Commission on our trip to Overlook Farm in Rutland, Mass. The trip, originally planned for October 2009, now will be held April 23-24.

Our children have been learning all year about the various ways that Heifer International provides hope to families around the globe, and this trip will be a hands on way to help them further understand how together we can address world hunger and poverty.

The program we will be participating in is called Humans and Habitats. This program will also help us in attaining the GreenFaith certification toward which Trinity is working. Each commission has several responsibilities in the certification process, and this trip will fulfill one of Christian Education's responsibilities.

The Heifer activities we will participate in include the animal and garden tour and the individual culture activity.

Our group will have an opportunity to meet some of Overlook Farm's animals and gain a better understanding of the eight M's (milk, meat, money, manure, motivation, muscle, materials and more) through simple

(Continued on Page 6)

The Trinity Times lists the birthdays of active members each month so you can wish your church family members a happy day.

Celebrating January birthdays are:

- 2 – Emma Farrell
- 5 – Kylie Nemeth
- 6 – Carol Molinari,
Donald Smutko
- 7 – Lois Bell, Becky Fic,
Connie Jamieson, Glenn
Palmer
- 8 – Joan Clark, Mark
Terranova
- 9 – Kimberly Genus,
Christina Hahner,
Charles Schwalje
- 10 – Joanna Wasser
- 11 – Christine Carr
- 17 – Karen Jensen
- 19 – Christine
Noppenberger
- 20 – James D’Onofrio,
Christy Fic, Glenn
Hoenes
- 21 – Ryan Geesey,
Dylan Hahner
- 22 – Barbara DeCarlo
- 24 – Gregory Schwalje
- 25 – Gil Schwarz
- 27 – Dawn Boysen,

Jan. 3 — We begin the new year by celebrating the second Sunday of the Christmas season.

This week, we hear explore the beautiful beginning of John’s gospel, asking what, exactly, it means that the Word became flesh, dwelt 0 -66 0 -ond

Hymns are reflections of church's liturgical seasons

Do you have any questions regarding our worship at Trinity? Perhaps you've wondered why we do some of the things we do (or don't do some of the things you may have seen done elsewhere). In this recurring Trinity Times article, the Rev. Carter tackles a question some may be asking about our Sunday morning worship services.

This month, Pastor Rob explores:

Why don't we usually sing Christmas carols during Advent?

This is one of the most frequently asked questions I hear throughout the four weeks of Advent. Certainly, I understand why. I personally love Christmas carols, and generally prefer the beauty of carols to the more difficult message and tunes of our Advent hymns.

We know our Christmas carols inside and out, while most of our Advent hymns sound strange; some even prove downright difficult to sing.

However, the integrity of our worship and liturgy matters, as worship is supposed to point us to the reflection of our liturgical seasons. Thus, we cannot sing whatever we want whenever we want. We cannot pretend that Advent is Christmas any more than we can pretend that Lent is Easter. Instead, just as the intentional reflection and repentance of Lent are necessary to get to Easter's alleluias, so Advent's reflection and preparations are



necessary to get Christmas's joy!

Or, said a bit more bluntly, just as we would never sing "Christ the Lord is risen today" during Lent, neither can we sing "Christ is born" during Advent.

Thus, the carols are reserved for the time dedicated to truly proclaiming Christ's birth – Christmas Eve, Christmas day, and the 12 days that follow! These are the days when the Church should sing loudly enough for all the world to hear, "Joy to the world, the Lord is born!"

Do you have a question about how we worship at Trinity? If so, and you'd like to have it considered for inclusion in this column, please call Pat Staffa at the church office (732-257-6636).

Special event at Trinity provides time to 'remember your own baptism'

Children, their families and anyone else who would like to join us are invited to celebrate the anniversary of our baptism on Jan. 10 at 9:15 a.m. in Assembly Hall.

Each time someone is baptized, we hear the words "remember your own baptism." On Jan. 10 that is exactly what we are going to do! We are going to take time to remember the love and grace that has been poured out upon us by God through our baptism and that we have been marked as God's own forever!

This will take the place of our education hour as we come together as one body of believers unified in the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ! Young will learn from old and old will share stories and learn from young. It will be a beautiful and fun time of fellowship and education.

*The Riepl effect**(Continued from Page 2)*

process takes five days, during which all bank statements for various accounts are checked for accuracy against church records. Comments for improvement, if needed, are given to Property and Finance for implementation. Financial statements are then prepared for the Congregational Meeting.

Frank Riepl is the lead auditor of this project. Frank has been a member of Trinity for about 20 years and has served as a deacon and an elder. During his time on the Session, he served as chairman of Property and Finance.

Frank grew up in East Brunswick and graduated from East Brunswick High School and Rutgers.

After his marriage to Paula, they moved to South River and then to Milltown, where they now reside. They have two children, Aimee and Joseph.

Thank you, Frank, for your dedication to this special task!

Pastor's Message

*(Continued from Page 1)*

fellowship, or sleep over with our FISH guests.

For all of this, I give thanks, but also reflect much hope – hope that we will continue to find ways to get our hands and feet dirty, actively serving the needs of others.

Thanks for TES. Our TES leaders have worked hard helping our community live into our creation-care-covenant. Today, Trinity stands as a leader in our presbytery and all of Central Jersey for faith communities trying to go green.

For all of this, I give thanks, but also reflect much hope – hope that we will continue to dig deeper and commit ourselves more fully to caring for God's great creation, while sharing and modeling the vitality of this cause!

Thanks for Deacons and Session. In a way that is rare I believe the two boards of our church continue to grow in both faith and discernment – the fruits of which are felt churchwide. Neither board has an easy job, but with discerning hearts, they can be joyful jobs that make a tremendous difference in the quality of our discipleship.

For all of this, I give thanks, but

also reflect much hope – hope that our leaders continue to find joy in their service and sacrifice, as well as hope that we might all continue to discern God's call of our community, and each member of it!

Thanks for you – each and every last member or friend of Trinity. I think it's important for you to know that, as hokey as it may sound, your pastor thanks God for you! For you are a blessing to our community of faith, and you *need* to understand that! So for you, I give thanks, but also reflect much hope – hope that this church might grow as a blessing unto you, but also hope that you will strive even more this year to grow as a blessing unto your church. For if Trinity is to really live out its mission – *growing disciples of Christ who know God, love God, and serve God* – we *need* you and all the God-given gifts within you that God is calling you to use!

So as we put an amazing year to bed, and birth the beginnings of a new year with tremendous hope, I ask you to join me in prayer – not just about the potential of our ministries, but *your* potential within it all!

In Thanks and Hope,
Rob



The Olive Branch is a symbol of peace, harmony and healing. Olive trees provide shelter, as well as oil used for ointment and consecration. The Olive Branch also represents deliverance from hardships and anxiety because a dove brought an olive leaf back to Noah's ark after the flood ended (Genesis 8:11)

M&D invites you
to the annual

Trinity Chili Cook- Off

Saturday, Feb. 6
at 5 p.m.

Enjoy a variety
of fantastic chili, corn
bread, salad and
dessert. Then pick
Trinity's best chili chef.
The winner and
runners-up will receive
award plaques and other
surprises.

Tickets will be on sale
after worship on
January 17, 24 and 31.

Chefs who think they
make the best chili in
Central Jersey (or at
least in Trinity) are
encouraged to call
Kathy Starzer-Farrell
at 732-236-3666.

Proceeds help
support

**"A Christian should
be an alleluia from
his head down to his
feet."**

— St. Augustine

(Continued from Page 2)

animal interaction. We may also be able to tour Overlook's organic gardens to gain a better understanding of the concept of sustainability.

Our group will also participate in activities that will help us understand the concept of culture and the value of recognizing our own culture and community.

Before we really can appreciate the culture of others, we have to

Thanks to all who helped make pageant a success

(Continued from Page

There were so many people in front and behind the scenes. Some of you donated food items; some cooked, set up and did dishes; some prepared costumes and helped the children with their lines in the pageant. Please know that whatever part you played our heartfelt thanks go out to you. Thank you for making this Advent a wonderful time of celebrating Christ's birth.



Heifer trip rescheduled for April 23-24

first appreciate our own!

In order to make this trip more accessible to everyone, the date for the trip has been moved to April 23-24, and the cost is \$25 per person.

We are beginning signups this month and hope that your family will be a part of this very educational and meaningful event!

For more information, please contact Kathy Genus.

Upcoming events

Jan. 3 — No Youth Group

Jan. 8 — Friday Coffee House at the Cranbury Presbyterian Church, 7p.m.

Jan. 10 — Bowling in the New Year at Carolier Lanes

Jan. 17 — Regular meeting, 6-7:30 p.m.

Jan. 24 — Regular meeting, 6-7:30 p.m.

Jan. 31 — Regular meeting, 6-7:30 p.m.

And coming in February is the famine and a possible snow tubing trip.

New Year's Day was in March for nearly 1,000 years

In 46 B.C., Roman emperor Julius Caesar first chose Jan. 1 as the date of the new year. Six hundred years later, the Roman church proclaimed that the new year would henceforth be March 25, the date of the Feast of the Annunciation (when the angel spoke to Mary).

March 25 was the accepted New Year's Day for almost 1,000 years. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII moved it back to January 1.

Trinity opts for environmentally friendly cleaning goods

“The environment is everywhere — it’s where we work, live, learn, play — and pray.”

Environmental pollution is also there. It is estimated that people flush 12 billion pounds of traditional household cleaning products down the drain each year. These chemicals break down slowly in the environment, cause water pollution and are stored in the fatty tissue of living creatures.

Many commonly used cleaning products contain ingredients capable of creating negative health impacts on susceptible adults and children. They can be responsible for irritating the skin, eyes, nose and throat; causing coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath; and causing headaches, dizziness and confusion.

Children are particularly vulnerable, and regular exposure to some of these products is suspected to contribute to diseases such as autism, asthma, cancer and other neuro-developmental health problems.

Thankfully, there are many Green options that can take the place of these products without sacrificing quality or effectiveness.

Recently, our Session approved a joint, formal recommendation from Trinity's Earth Shepherds (TES) and the Property and Finance Commission to select the Deirdre Imus Environmental Center for Pediatric Oncology (DIECPO) at New Jersey's Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC) as the



— vendor for the cleaning products we will be using in our church.

The products are part of their “Greening the Cleaning” program, which involves “eliminating to the greatest extent possible all cleaning agents containing hazardous ingredients and replacing them with environmentally responsible ingredients with the least level of toxicity.”

Deirdre Imus is the founder and president of DIECPO and the wife of radio talk show personality, Don Imus. They are co-founders and co-directors of the Imus Cattle Ranch for Kids with Cancer in northern New Mexico.

DIECPO, HUMC and the Imus Cattle Ranch are all not-for-profit corporations.

TES encourages use of Green cleaning products in your home, particularly where children are present. They are safer and equally effective as what you may be using now. When you shop, look for the “Green Seal” certification on the product.

If there is none, look for products that list all ingredients on the label (not just active ingredients), and those that use plant-based ingredients such as coconut surfactant and have either no fragrance listed or only essential oils.

TES members will be glad to answer any questions you may have on the “Greening the Cleaning” program at Trinity.

Gracious God, we have been blessed with a place to live and a home to care for. Give us wisdom to keep our homes safe, clean and hospitable to all your creation.

***A prayer
for the new year***

Eternal God, thank you for bringing us once again to the threshold of a new year. Help us dedicate each day of 2010 to following your will for our lives. Guide us, Lord, in all our decisions and actions, day by day and hour by hour. Help us accomplish all that you desire for us to do, until our mission on earth is finished. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***“Growing disciples of Christ who know
God, love God, and serve God.”***

Church School 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Adult Education 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.

Trinity Presbyterian Church
367 Cranbury Road
East Brunswick, NJ 08816
(732) 257-6636
Fax: (732) 257-0150
Website: www.trinity-pc.org

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Robert Carter
Director of Christian Education: Kathy Genus
Organist/Choir Director: Edward Krogstad, Jr.
Administrative Assistant: Pat Staffa
Sexton: Wayne McClinnon

Trinity Times Staff

Editor: Tom DeCaro
Production: Pat Staffa



In darkness there is no choice. It is light that enables us to see the differences between things; and it is Christ who gives us light.

— Augustus Hare

Trinity Times
Trinity Presbyterian Church
367 Cranbury Road
East Brunswick, NJ 08816



•••••
• Non Profit Organization
• U.S. Postage Paid
• East Brunswick, NJ
• 08816
• Permit No. 16025
•••••