



TRINITY
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TRINITY NEWS

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Repentance and Reconciliation

Ash Wednesday (March 9th) invites us into the holy season of Lent. We are called into a time of prayer and reflection; a time of fasting and penitence; a time to take stock of who we have become, and who we are called to be, by our gracious and loving God. There is a special liturgy for Ash Wednesday that is found in the *Book of Common Prayer* on page 264. I urge you to read and ponder the prayers not only in preparation for Ash Wednesday but as a text for living a holy Lent.

The Collect for the day begins: "Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent". We begin by saying who God is for us; one who desires the good for all of creation and who seeks reconciliation for all. The collect then continues to pray for us that we may be transformed by God's forgiving love.

Lent invites us take an honest look at ourselves through prayer, fasting, and self-denial; by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. These are ways in which we can see who we are called to be and assess where we have squandered our inheritance as children of the living God. We are called to repent.

We offer a *Litany of Penitence* (BCP pg. 267) which begins with the reality that all of us sin "in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone". But the litany continues to articulate the ways in which we have sinned: "by not loving God and our neighbor; being deaf to God's call to serve; the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives; our self-indulgent appetites, our exploitation of others; our anger, our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts; our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us; for our blindness to human needs, our prejudice and contempt toward others; our waste and pollution of creation".

Too often we get stuck in our journey of repentance and go round and around in those things that we have done wrong or failed to do. We are really good at pointing the finger and condemning ourselves but we miss the point of repentance if we stop only with naming our sins. God invites us to make the journey to move from recognizing our sins to opening ourselves to receive God's forgiveness. The litany continues that we may be restored in God's mercy so that we may accomplish the work of God's salvation through the cross and passion of Jesus Christ. **To repent is not to feel bad about ourselves, but to think differently.** To claim who we are as children of God, united with God in and through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. The *Litany of Penitence* provides an avenue for us to reflect upon the actions of our lives and to open ourselves to the movement of God's life-giving Spirit.

For those who find sin weighting upon their conscience there is also the Sacrament of Reconciliation (BCP pg. 447 – 452) whereby an individual makes a confession to a priest or an experienced confessor. The prayer of confession (BCP pg 450) articulates the final movement of repentance when it prays: "Receive me again into the arms of your mercy, and restore me to the blessed company of your faithful people; through your Son our Savior Jesus Christ". In the dismissal the fullness of reconciliation is proclaimed "Now there is rejoicing in heaven; for you were lost, and are found; you were dead, and are now alive in Christ Jesus. Go in peace. The Lord has put away all your sins" (BCP pg 451). Repentance and reconciliation is the journey of a holy Lent culminating in the fullness of Easter joy. May you have a blessed and holy Lent.

The Rev. Jean Campbell, Rector



Ministry of Music

MUSIC NOTES

With Lent just around the corner I've decided to write about one of our Lenten hymns which can also be used for meditation. The poem which the author later had set to music was written by John Donne (1573-1631) who is familiar to most of us from high school English class. I find it reminiscent of the Psalms, particularly Psalm 51, the classic penitential Psalm. The text is below so that you can see what I (and *The Hymnal 1982 Companion*) have to say about it.

*Wilt thou forgive that sin, where I begun,
which is my sin, though it were done before?
Wilt thou forgive those sins through which I run,
And do run still, though still I do deplore?
When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I
have more.*

*Wilt thou forgive that sin, by which I won
Others to sin, and made my sin their door?
Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun*

*A year or two, but wallowed in a score?
When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I
have more.*

*I have a sin of fear that when I've spun
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
Swear by thyself, that at my death thy Son
Shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore.
And having done that, thou hast done, I fear no
more.*

I think most of us, when we are being honest with ourselves, have to admit that we aren't really the holy and blameless people we like to think we are. In this poem Mr. Donne examines himself and finds that he keeps on doing the things he doesn't really want to do. (St. Paul had something to say about that!) In fact he has to admit that his own sin has also been the cause of others sinning. And even the wrongs that he is so proud of having given up he has to admit he "wallowed in a score". Just as the whole thing seems rather depressing he tells us of his final sin of fear. He is afraid that when death comes he will be alone, without God. So he asks God to promise (as we know he has) that his son, Jesus, will be there to shine on him at the time of his death. With that accomplished, he has no more fear and the final line is really a joyous triumph of faith. We know he felt this way because of what John Donne said to a friend after hearing his poem set to music and sung at an Evening Service.

The words of this Hymn have restored to me the same thoughts of joy that possessed my soul in my sickness when I composed it. And, O the power of church music! That harmony added to this Hymn has raised the affections of my heart, and quickened my graces of zeal and gratitude; and I observe that I always return from paying this public duty of prayer and praise to God with an inexpressible tranquility of mind, and a willingness to leave the world.

In talking about this text I would be remiss not to point out the way the author calls attention to himself by punning on his own surname in the last line of each stanza and also making it the basis of the two rhymes weaving through all the stanzas. Less obvious, but still important is the second rhyme-word that concludes every stanza: more. This simple word is also significant because the maiden name of Donne's wife was Ann More. His beloved wife had been dead for six years when this poem was written. But his love for her had shaped his life in much the same way that his interweaving of rhymes on their names shapes this poem.

We may not be ready to join in a willingness to leave this world. But I do commend this Hymn (#140) to you for your Lenten meditation.

Beverly Simmons -Minister of Music

Worship Services

Saturday Services

An informal Holy Eucharist is being held at 5PM on Saturdays. All are welcome. Bring a friend. Come as you are.

Sunday Services

8 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I
 10 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II Choral Service
 9:45 AM Church School

Ash Wednesday

The first day of Lent, is marked with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist which includes a Litany of Penitence and the imposition of Ashes. Services will be held at 7AM, Noon, and at 7PM



Altar Flowers

If you would like to remember someone or an event by donating money for the cost of Altar Flowers, please contact June MacInnes at 896-9012.

Journey to Easter

Wednesday Evenings in Lent will begin at 6:30PM with bread, soup, and fellowship. At 7PM we will explore the Sunday Gospels appointed for this Lenten season. The stories of the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness; Jesus' encounter with Nichodemus; the Samaritan woman at the well; the man born blind; and the raising of Lazarus have been used by the Church since the 4th century as preparation for celebrating baptismal life in the Easter feast. It is a time for each of us to deepen and renew our discipleship in Christ and prepare for the alleluias of Easter. This will begin on March 16 and continue to April 20, 2011.

A Lenten Challenge

After the Annual Meeting, a family in the parish raised their concern about using income from Trinity's endowment funds to support our day- to- day operating budget. Endowment funds are intended for major capital expansion and for emergency situations, not for normal operating expenses. So they have offered a Challenge for Lent.

The goal of the challenge is to move Trinity to a better financial footing now, and in the future, by reducing our dependence on earnings from endowment funds. The current budget draws on \$20,000 from endowment funds to balance the budget for 2011. This Challenge will run through Lent, beginning on March 9th, Ash Wednesday through Easter, April 24th.

The family has generously offered a "blind" challenge. They will match dollar for dollar the amount raised over and above your current pledge up to a maximum of \$10,000. The blind part comes from you not knowing the total amount raised until the Sunday after Easter. Only the Parish Administrator will know the weekly status. We understand that there are many who simply cannot afford to give more to the Church. At the same time we hope there are many who could increase their giving. For those who accept the challenge, it is the family's hope that you will continue to give more than your pledge for the remainder of 2011 and that you will continue to pledge at this increased level for 2011 and beyond.

This is a challenge not only to those who have made a pledge for the coming year but also to those who do not pledge; to our youth; and to our children. What would you miss if you contributed the cost of a beverage or sweet to the church weekly?

Envelopes will be provided marked "Challenge". Alternatively you may write a check and mark "Challenge" in the memo and include it with your regular offering.

Please note that current pledge offerings are not part of this challenge, rather it is money given over and above the pledge which will be counted in this Challenge. We are very grateful for this generous offer and pray that Trinity will rise to the challenge.

-Connie Smith and Susan Quade, Wardens

First Friday Gathering

You are invited to join a group who are gathering for scripture study, conversation and fellowship on the



first Friday of the month. The inaugural gathering will be on **Friday, March 4th at 7 PM** in the Parish House Library. If you have any questions contact Steve Blanks (896-3713).

Women's Book Club

The book club is currently reading *Nory Ryan's Song* by Patricia Reilly-Giff. A meeting will be held to discuss the book on Wednesday, March 2nd at 12 noon in the Parish House Library. Bring your lunch and join the discussion! Extra copies of the book are available in the Parish Office. New members are always welcomed.

Newsletter Articles

If you're interested in submitting articles for the newsletter, please do so to carolynsaldana@yahoo.com by the 2nd Sunday of the month. Please be mindful that articles must be consistent with Trinity's mission.

Meeting Fundraiser for Trinity Sidewalk

Trinity Episcopal is starting a fundraising campaign to finish the sidewalk from the church school to the main entrance in front of the church. The side walk will consist of paver blocks, some plain and the rest labeled with names of family, friends and relatives. The cost per brick will be \$100.00 if you decide to have a name put on the brick. We are trying to finish the sidewalk by end of year 2010. The maximum # of lines on a brick are 3, and the maximum # of characters per line is 13. Please call Bob Tetrault with any questions 914-213-0564



Trinity's Food Pantry

Cold weather is around the corner and that means an increase in the number of people that we help.

PLEASE CUT THIS OUT AND SAVE IT

March 6th – Macaroni & Cheese

March 13th – Dry Pasta

March 20th – Dry Cereal

March 27th – Canned Tuna

Thank you for feeding those in need.

Trinity Food Pantry Volunteers

A Prayer for our Sisters and Brothers in New Zealand

Merciful God, in your hands are the caverns of the earth and the heights of the hills: our times also are in your hands. Hear our prayers for those suffering in the aftermath of earthquake in New Zealand; soothe those in distress; watch over those trapped and hoping for rescue; comfort the bereaved; strengthen those who labor to help others, lift up those who cannot help themselves; and in every danger be their very present help by the power of your Holy Spirit; we pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Why do you continue to read your Bible?

In last month's Trinity News, Sr. Jean asked "Do you know where your Bible is?" Her question reminded me of a story I read on-line about an old man and his grandson who lived in the mountains.

Each morning, the grandfather would sit at the kitchen table and read from his Bible. The young boy would imitate his grandfather by reading his own Bible. One day, the grandson said "Grandfather, I try to read the Bible just like you, but I don't understand it. When I do understand it, I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The grandfather simply replied, "Son, take this old wicker coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, but the water leaked out of the basket before he could get back to the house. The grandfather sent him back several more times and told him to move faster each time. Every time, the frustrated boy returned with an empty

basket. Finally the young boy said to his grandfather, "See...it's useless!"

The old man said, "Look at the basket. Instead of a dirty old wicker coal basket, it's now clean. Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand it or remember everything you read, but when you do, it will change you from the inside out." — Bob Beattie

