



TRINITY  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
1756  
FISHKILL

Epiphany  
February 2012

# TRINITY NEWS

Trinity Episcopal Church  
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## Trinity Parish Stewardship in 2011 and 2012

Trinity had an uneven stewardship year in 2011. During Lent, a specific appeal was announced to raise funds so that we would not have to use money from our Endowment Fund to balance the budget. This Lenten challenge was met - Trinity raised \$19,727 achieving the goal of filling the operating budget with pledged money. For this Lenten challenge, there were 36 pledges. That meant the first half 2011 was outstanding. Thank you!

Yet, as 2011 went into the second half, the pace of giving seemed to slow. Also, it seemed that Trinity Fishkill was being taken for granted. By yearend, from our 102 pledges, we had 23 exceed pledge, 37 met pledge, but 42 were not able to fulfill their pledge. Thus, there was again a shortfall in operating income. The vestry understands personal circumstances do change. What is being stressed now is that we need to pray and work together, so Trinity can continue to grow and fulfill its several missions.

This community of Christians has been meeting since 1756 here in Fishkill, New York – 256 years. The next few years could be some of the most significant years in its entire history. Trinity Fishkill is at a crossroads. We have the opportunity to remain a vibrant community with broad and varied programs, focused on youth, outreach, music, and worship supported by a dedicated and excellent staff. Or, Trinity can miss the mark and be forced to become less than it could be. It can be similar to an athlete where the difference in winning at its sport is that extra practice, that extra coaching, that greater effort than thought possible that makes a true champion. Trinity Fishkill as a congregation needs to step up to its challenge in 2012.

Your Vestry met December 20, 2011. The 2012stewardship committee reported that we received 84 pledges totaling \$167,782. That is 18 fewer pledges than 2011. In 2011, pledge income was \$168,065. That is less than \$300 difference in pledge income with 18 fewer pledges. Praise God – a dedicated core of givers has stepped forward! The challenge for Trinity is how to close its budget gap. The theme for this year will be “Mind the Gap.”

Trinity Fishkill has a chance for its own success story in 2012. Vestry had voted in December on a budget with a recognized shortfall of \$35,278. Quoting the vestry minutes,

“In prior years, withdrawals from investment savings served to balance budget deficits. For 2012, however, the Vestry feels that the specter of an unbalanced budget may raise awareness of the church’s constrained financial picture. The hope is that the whole congregation will become involved in a discussion to identify why Trinity is important, what people will support, and what the future is for the parish.”

As mentioned earlier, Trinity is at an important crossroads. We encourage everyone to pray and consider what Trinity means to you. Trinity has been a family to those supporting the financial needs. Trinity has meant something to you!

This shortfall sounds very large. Yet, for example, if each pledging family unit were to give \$ 8 more per week, there will not be any shortfall. We especially ask those who have not made a pledge, to do so now. While it is hard to know each family's situation, we ask those who are especially blessed with abundance to significantly increase their financial commitment to Trinity Parish.

Let's have a great discussion during our Annual Meeting on February 5. At that meeting, there will be materials on church programs and the budget. Your Vestry understands there is no fat in the budget. Trinity Fishkill has been frugal and efficient. It is not at all obvious where any cuts can be made. Trinity needs your help. One proposal is to have Trinity start a process of re-pledging to its budget in the next few weeks. Again, after prayer and if you are able to increase your pledge or give more, then please do so. May God bless the ministries and people of Trinity.

Steven R. Blanks

## Our Ministry of Music

### MUSIC NOTES

From time to time we sing hymns that are not from the Hymnal 1982. They usually come from the official supplements to the Hymnal: Lift Every Voice and Sing or Wonder, Love and Praise.

One of our hymns for February 5<sup>th</sup> comes from the latter. “Heal me, hands of Jesus” is often sung on a Sunday when we have a story from the Gospels of Jesus healing someone. On this Sunday we have the story of Jesus healing Peter’s mother-in-law. Then others in the town come and he heals them as well.

What about us? Does Jesus heal today? I strongly believe that he does. There are many types of healing: physical, emotional, psychological, etc. Jesus can and does touch all areas of our life when we let him. It doesn’t always result in a physical cure but healing can take place on many levels. That’s what I like about this simple song. It goes beyond just physical pain and touches other areas of our life.

Heal me, hands of Jesus, and search out all my pain:  
Restore my hope, remove my fear and bring me peace again.

Cleanse me, blood of Jesus, take bitterness away;  
Let me forgive as one forgiven and bring me peace today.

Know me, mind of Jesus, and show me all my sin;  
Dispel the memories of guilt, and bring me peace within.

Fill me, joy of Jesus: anxiety shall cease  
And heaven’s serenity be mine, for Jesus brings me peace!

As we sing this simple yet beautiful song may the words speak to your heart and may you find healing.

*Beverly Simmons*  
*Minister of Music*

## Worship Services

### Saturday Service

An informal Holy Eucharist is held at 5 PM 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  
 9:30 AM Church School

## Funeral Announcements

Trinity parishioner, Shirley Bialy, mother of Terry Badura, died on Sunday, January 8th at the age of 80. May her soul rest in peace. Please keep Shirley's family, especially Terry, John, and Robyn, in your prayers.

## Annual Meeting

Trinity's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5th during the 10 AM service. There will be no 5 PM service on Saturday, February 4th and no 8 AM service that Sunday. Everyone is invited to gather at 10 AM for one celebration of the Holy Eucharist.



The Annual Meeting, including reports and the election of one Warden and three members of the Vestry, will take place in the context of the Eucharist. A pot luck luncheon will follow the service. You are asked to bring a dish to share.

## THANK YOU!

The Altar Guild thanks all of Trinity's elves this past Christmas season for its help with the "Greening of the Church" and especially with the clean up! The church looked beautiful!  
 -Marilyn Sullivan



## Souper Bowl Sunday

Please bring in cans of hearty soup for Trinity's Food Pantry until Souper Bowl Sunday, February 5th. Drop off boxes are located in the narthex and Parish Hall.



## Women's Book Club

The Book Club will meet on Wednesday, February 8th at Noon in the Library to discuss *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson. All are welcome. Bring your lunch and join the discussion!



## First Friday Gathering

All are invited to join a group who are gathering for scripture study, conversation and fellowship on the first Friday of the month. Our next gathering will be held on Friday, February 3rd at 7 PM in the Library. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Blanks at 896-3713.



## Newsletter Articles

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

