



Trinity Episcopal Church

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Dear fellow parishioners and friends,

We're already into the second month of the year. If this year were a new pair of shoes, we'd expect them to be getting pretty comfortable. But it seems like we got a pair that's going to take a little more breaking in.

We had a wonderful annual meeting with lots of good news and plans for the future. Our budget is looking better. We are making plans for temporary priests, and then hiring a new priest, probably part-time. There are plans for finding a new organist. Sunday School is going to continue and so is our adult formation including Bible Study on Wednesday mornings and learning opportunities after church on Sundays. The Sandwich Board has new "green" dishes that can be washed and reused for years.

But, we still have some uncertainty ahead of us. How will services feel without a regular priest every Sunday? Will be able to find the right priest to fit our needs? And an organist?

Part of what I feel is my job during this year is to remind us of what Bishop Lee said to us during his visit here. Trinity is full of people who love Jesus. We are here to serve the hungry and marginalized people of our neighborhood. If we focus on that love, share that love, and keep doing what we are called to do, God will set a path before us. Again and again in Wednesday morning Bible Study, we talk about passages that reinforce this. God's time is not our time. We have to trust in Him or all will be lost. We must love each other and show Jesus' love in

our lives or else we will founder. I pray that as we continue through the year, we will all remain steadfast in God's love and grace. Even when things seem dark, His bright love for us is there. Bask in it, and know you, and all of God's people, are loved.

Peace,
Kristin LaTour
Senior Warden

How did we get in this mess anyway?

This is my recollection of the history of Trinity's Financial woes since I joined Trinity in 1991 – Rob Borchert

In 1991, when I joined Trinity our budget was in the neighborhood of \$100,000 and already in trouble.

In 1994 or 1995, Trinity received a gift of almost \$200,000 from the estate of Ms. Pooley.

In or 1998, Father Burden moved into the apartment in the Church and the Housing fund was combined with the Pooley Fund.

Trinity used these two funds to fund budget deficits in all of the years since we received the Pooley funds.

In 2005, Bill Burden retired and Trinity was faced with two alternatives:

1. Hire a part time Priest or
2. Participate in the Lilly Program (Mustardseed Program) through the Diocese.

Trinity chose the Lilly Program and hired Charlie (A very wise choice by the way) in August of 2006.

In 2009 the combined Pooley/Housing fund was exhausted, the Lilly Foundation Subsidy expired and we were forced to borrow money against the Endowment Fund.

In 2010, we again had to borrow money against the Endowment Fund to pay our bills and in March the Finance Committee reported to the Vestry that the current financial path was unsupportable.

On 12/5/2010, Charlie accepts a position at St. Matthew's parish in Evanston.

On 1/11/2011 Trinity's Vestry approves its first balanced budget since before I joined the Church in 1991.

Rob Borchert

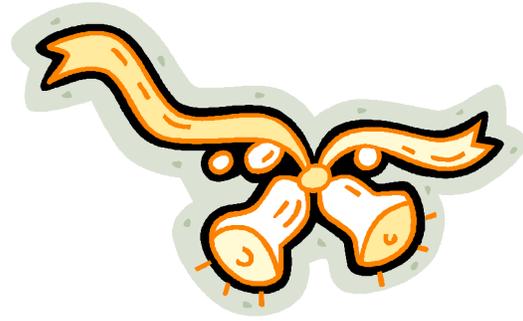
Parish Notes

Please pray for those who are ill: Jim, Fidelia, Sylvia, Cynthia, Lucile, John, Naomi, April, Brian, Jean, Trudy, Wedad, the Parnow family, Bill, Chuck, Jackie, Barb, Trish, Kathy Mike, Bessie.

Sandwich Board: has received grants from St. John, Naperville; the CROP Hunger Walk, 2010.

A grant was also received from Grace Episcopal, Hinsdale for help with the damage that was sustained by a boiler leak in the Guild Room. Speaking of the Guild Room – we are now awaiting the carpet delivery. When the carpet is in people will begin removing the tile

(asbestos). We HOPE that we can have the tile removed on one day and the carpet installed the next. Again, thanks to Ken Palmquist and his initial renovation we will have a beautiful room for meetings, etc.



WEDDING: How exciting! On February 26th, 2011, our own Inga Weidmann and Gary Gorney are being married at the Church at 2:00 pm! They've invited the whole congregation to attend the wedding and the reception that follows in the Parish Hall. May God Bless them and make their marriage loving and lasting!

On February 9th, 2011, thirteen Trinity volunteers packed food for "Feed My Starving Children", a not-for-profit, faith based organization that supplies food to starving children around the world. On a cold day, it sure warmed our hearts to help those in need!

Mark your calendar for our 4th Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner! Dick Blogg is warming up the spatula! Dinner will be from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Church. Donations will be greatly appreciated but not required. Help us kick off Lent in a gala way!

Lent means Spring!



Bring in your palms, we will make the ashes on Shrove Tuesday. They can be brought in anytime.
RECYCLE!

As we actively look to continue and sustain our missions, we could use a lot of help! We are actively looking for people to serve on a variety of committees as we seek a new Organist, a Supply Priest who might be interested in becoming part time, Teachers to continue our rich Children's Education Program of Godly Play, Volunteers to help with our Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Dinner (March 8th. 2011), People to assist with the Worship Committee, Etc. If you are interested please call the office at 630 897-7283!

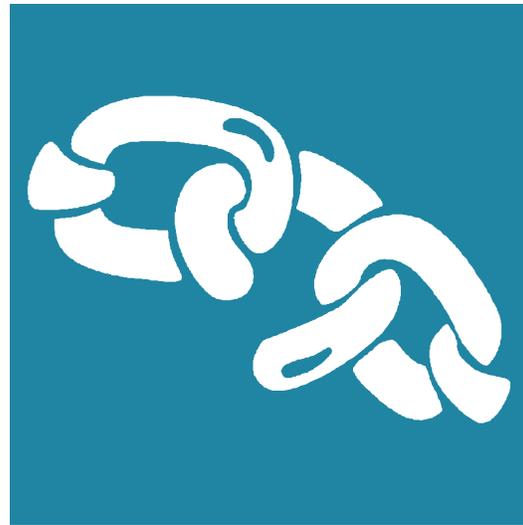
After a short meeting, a team of people volunteered to continue our Children's Sunday School program of Godly Play. There is a four person rotation in place with teachers scheduled through the end of March. The team of Chireen, David, Tom and Rob felt that continuing to use the Godly Play material was of utmost importance in providing the children with continuity and richness of experience. We owe a tremendous amount of thanks to Christina for her dedication and service over the last four years!

Godly Play Wish List

Christina also left us with a list of things that will help the program:
Scotch Tape Good Pencil Sharpener
Glue (Elmer's and glue sticks)
Marker/watercolor paper
Washable acrylic paints

Smocks/old t-shirts
Standing of table top easel(s)
Paper Towels Lysol wipes
Hand soap Tissues
Scissors Dustbuster
Two white pillar candles 4" tall

Pat Wilson completed the inventory of Sacristy. Sounds easy, but she researched prices on everything so we could know how much everything is worth. This is step one in a total inventory of the Church. We have a video of everything but will continue to add to the list that Pat has started! Thank you Pat for all your efforts!



Trinity's Prayer Chain

Trinity has an active prayer Chain. Anyone can start the chain. Either call the Church office and we will start the chain or call someone from the list below. If you would like the prayer included in the bulletin, please call the office. You can be specific, giving a name and what the prayer is for, or general, just saying a close friend needs prayers for health, for example. Confidentiality

is acceptable and should be respected. As soon as one member of the chain gets a call, they will call the next person on the list until the chain is complete. It might take a little time to get the whole chain completed. We will strive to do our best!

Chain members:

Kristin Marnie Pearl Janet
Betty Dolores Chireen Lucile
Linda (630-897-7283) Rob
Gale Cathie Marilou Alex and
back to the start

If you would like to become a member of the chain, please call the office at 630 897-7283

Imagining Our Future:

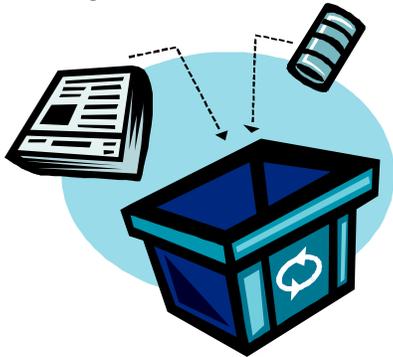
An Open Conversation with the
community

Building on Bishop Lee's Visit

(This is a copy of the outline of a presentation at the Annual Meeting which presented what's been going on since we received Father Charlie's resignation)

1. Thanksgiving
 2. The Good News that the Bishop brought during his visit.
 - a. No intention of taking over Trinity to get our endowment.
 - b. The resources of the Diocese at our disposal as we go through our future planning
 - c. The naming of a liaison from the Diocese to help us in our becoming.
 - d. The bishop having several names in mind when thinking about possibly forming a supply Priest evolving into a part time priest.
 - e. That Father Rasicci, our Dean, has offered his assistance both Pastorally and in any way he can.
 - f. His belief that Trinity has a strong congregation doing the work of God
3. What your Vestry has already accomplished
 - a. A balanced 2011 Budget inclusive of;
 - i. Supply Priest coverage for the full year plus special services
 - ii. Funding for Organist replacement
 - iii. Reduction of our loan against the Endowment
 - iv. Money for day care weekly
 - b. Establishment of a search committee for a new organist
 - c. Contacting the Diocese to establish who our liaison with them will be
 - d. Establishment of a search committee for a supply Priest who would develop into a part time priest with a goal of having the person in place by next fall.
 - e. Establishing a Children's Education Committee to assure an ongoing educational effort.
 - f. Is developing a procedure to assure that the congregation's ongoing pastoral care needs are

- met after Father Charlie leaves.
- g. Coverage is already in place for Holy Week.
 - h. Anything else?
4. Open discussion of specific things the Congregation wants the Vestry to attend to.
 5. Request for the support of the Congregation through prayer, participation on committees, attendance at Vestry Meetings and belief that Trinity has a rich and glorious future!



The Recycle Bin

Hello everyone,

First I'd like to thank everyone for your participation in sending Valentine's to our elected officials regarding The Clean Air Act. I am very thankful to have the support of Trinity as we step forward into 2011. While I prepared for the mailing of the Valentine's I achieved one of the goals I stated at our annual meeting: compile a list of elected officials. Mission accomplished.

The Clean Air Act was established 40 years ago. It was to prevent harm to humans and the environment by controlling greenhouse gasses. According to Deb Weinstein at the Atlantic Wire "The Bill's supporters say the Environmental Protection Agency has used legislation such as the

1970 Clean Air Act for a power grab and is exercising authority it doesn't have. But the heart of the issue, apparently, is not that the EPA has overstepped its mandate, but that limiting greenhouse gasses hurts businesses. The bill wants to overturn limits on seven controlled emissions, including nitrous oxide, sulfur hexafluoride and hydrofluorocarbons and wants to prevent global warming from being considered a legitimate reason to limit emissions." For me, this means that if there is no clean air, deaths from these related issues increase and there will be more problems concerning global climate change. Therefore, an increase in deaths equals a decrease in business. Cleaner business is something that we can all, literally, live with.

The Green Team met before the annual meeting. We discussed the accomplishments of the previous year. With a lot of help from Linda, Rob, and Michael, the dishwasher was installed. As a result of the installation of the dishwasher we have already been able to reduce the amount of landfill waste by more than half! And the rain barrel is here and ready for spring. Don't forget about all of the wonderful things that we are learning about: endangered species, invasive species, and tips to reduce your carbon footprint. Anyone who wishes to come to a meeting is welcome too. If you are not able to come at our meeting time please let me know as we can try to better accommodate schedules.

At the annual meeting I spoke about the biggest environmental disaster of 2010. The BP oil spill was a horrifying gut check. It illustrated just how far we consumers push the limits of nature. In looking for images to share at the

annual meeting I was sick at the sight of what I had come across on the internet, photos of animals and habitats that had been completely destroyed by the oil spill. Not to mention the fishing industry that had come to a halt; the economy of these coastal towns that has hit rock bottom. Charles Darwin stated that “it’s not the strongest species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change.” I feel that the oil spill was a change that no species is able to adapt. We live in an environment that is constantly changing. Natural environmental changes happen. And with these changes natural adaptation occurs. Major man-made disasters leave no room for adaptation, only destruction of species.

Recently I came across a documentary by Ken Burns called “Americas Best Idea, National Parks”. This was a great documentary I recommend it. It tells the story about how the idea of National Parks and National Monuments developed. Steven Mather was the first director of National Parks. Here is a quote I would like to share. I would like to ask the Green Team to ponder this and we can discuss it at the next meeting.

What is it that inspired the love of the flag? That tunes the ear of America to sing “My country tis of thee”. Is it Industrial efficacy? Irrigation statics or trade output? Is it the hideous ore dumps of the assorted mining camps? Is it the grim powerhouse camp that has harnessed Niagara? Is it the blackened waste that follows the devastation of much of our forest wealth? Is it the smoking factory of the grimy mill town? Is it even the lofty skyscraper that shuts out the sun and cast its dismal shadow over all below?

No, our devotion to the flag is inspired by the love of country. Patriotism is the religion of the soil and National Parks are our richest patrimony.

Kimberly Rubis

Trinity’s Web Site

Please visit Trinity’s Web Site, www.trinityaurora.org. The site offers a great deal of information about Trinity: The home page welcomes all who seek God and Gives updates on upcoming events. The second page gives information on our worship services. Following pages detail information about Trinity, weekly sermons , a page devoted to our children, a page devoted to our newsletters, a calendar, a photo gallery, information on the Amnesty Center and the Sandwich Board. Kimberly contributes to a page on environmental issues called the green team and there is a blog I write about things going on at Trinity. Please check it out and give feedback to the office!

Rector’s Report to the 162nd Annual Meeting January 30, 2011

Good friends,

It’s been an honor, and a privilege, and most of all a joy, to walk humbly with our God with you since July 8th, 2006. As my father liked to say, I think we’ve “come a fur piece together.” Along the way, we’ve put new life into these old bones of this grand old lady.

Together, we’ve recognized and celebrated our rich and deep history with anniversaries of the church and of our ministries.

Together, we’ve put new life into these old bones physically, revisioning, rehabbing, and improving our buildings

and grounds. The plant has been continuously evaluated, maintained, restored and improved. There is not a room that has not been considered, not a wall that has been power-washed or painted, not a window that has not been fixed, stormed, restored, there's not a foot of roofing that has not been examined, and every inch needing it has been replaced.

Building on existing strengths, like the Sandwich Board, together, we've put new life into these old bones communally, by partnering with our neighbors, both in the neighborhood and in the city – annexing the resources of the political agencies, the social services, the community organizations, and the communities of faith, to build up God's kingdom. I'm thinking of: The Alpha Course. The Indian Creek Clean Up. Celebrate Jesus Together. The InterFaith Thanksgiving Services. The Crop Walk in 2008, 2009, and 2010. The Trinity Deacons.

Together we have strengthened our relationships with - and developed new ties to - the Diocese of Chicago, finding friends and supporters wherever we turned! And we have hosted events for the Diocese like the annual Chrism Mass, the Magnetic Church Conference, and the showing of the documentary *Traces of the Trade* right here at Trinity. Together we have found new sources of financial support beginning with our Sandwich Board Partners - like Grace Church, Hinsdale, and St. John's, Naperville - but also reaching out into the community finding supporters at the City of Aurora, the Kiwanis, Jewel/Osco, CROP, not to mention the Diocese of Chicago (with grants from the Lilly Program, the Congregations Commission, and the Hunger Commission), among others.

Together, we've put new life into these old bones socially, both in fundraisers like RibFest and Luigi's, and non-fundraisers, from game night to ice cream socials, from St. Margaret's lunches to countless pot-lucks such as this morning's!

We've put new life into her bones spiritually – with new services of worship like Taizé, stations of the cross, gospel service, children's services, lent, holy week, and advent services, healing services, weekly morning prayer. We've had services and special blessings for retirement, for major wedding anniversaries, for weddings, significant birthdays, including a Quinceañera. Our worship together has nurtured our pastoral care and fostered a hunger for spiritual formation. We began by teaching the children, with the Godly Play program. This yearning to know more spread to the adults, too, and we offered seasonal programs in Lent and Advent, which led to Sunday adult forums, which led to weekly bible studies – both *The Story* and the midweek lectionary bible study, and the quarterly book group study. We've studied with professors, and we've learned from each other.

We've put new life into her bones in ministries. Even as we reclaimed a particular spot in the Sandwich Board rotation, we imagined other ways we might respond to God's call to love kindness and to do justice. It has been a special pleasure, for instance, to watch as the Green Team has developed and grown and integrated itself into the life and ministries of the church.

Looking back, I realize that I have not done everything perfectly, far from it. I've made some mistakes, and some blunders were more damaging than others. At the same time, I've also left

undone some things that I should have done. For my many shortcomings and my faults, I ask your forgiveness. All in all, I still believe we have come a fur piece together. There is much more we could say, but once again I'm over time. So, with apologies to those people, events, and accomplishments that I've neglected to name, let me bring my piece home.

We have come to a crossroads, you and I. While my discernment has been difficult, God is very clearly calling me to take a new path, to bring what you've taught me to others. It is extraordinarily bittersweet to be standing in this place of transition. I will miss Trinity more than I can say. Thank you for the tremendous privilege of being your rector for these past five years. It's also pretty clear God has something new in store for Trinity. You are going somewhere where my presence would not be helpful. I believe, I hope, I pray that Trinity stands stronger today, more engaged today, more transparent, more alive and vibrant today, than when we first met. So now, it's time for me to step aside, and let the leadership - which has been trying its hand, working, growing, and developing - to take the reins.

I'll be here, but in the background, for a little while longer to help with the transition. I hope I can offer helpful advice and counsel for a few more weeks, as you find it helpful.

But now it's your turn.

Listen for God.

Believe in God's love for you and for Trinity.

There is, indeed, a very special place in God's Heart for Trinity!

You do extraordinary, and important ministry.

Take good care of yourselves.

And, for goodness sake, don't forget to have fun! (As if you could!)
God bless you and keep you.

The Rev. Charles A. de Kay



Don't forget that Fr. de Kay and family will celebrate with us on Sunday, March 6. This will be his last Sunday as our Rector, friend and Priest.

Please join us for Mass at 9:00 and a potluck dinner afterwards. For full details, please call the Church Office and Linda or Rob will be available to answer any questions, you might have.



