

# Trinity Topics

*The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church in Toledo, Ohio*

FEBRUARY 2008 VOLUME 134, NUMBER 2



**The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness, and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.**



## **SUNDAY, FEB 3 ▪ EPIPHANY 4A**

Ex 24:12-18, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matt 17:1-9  
9:00a Eucharist w/hymns  
10:00a Formation  
10:45a Parish Eucharist

## **WED, FEB 6 ▪ ASH WEDNESDAY**

Isa 58:1-12, 2 Cor 5:20b-6:10, Matt 6:1-6, 16-21  
noon Liturgy of the Day (short)  
7:00p Liturgy of the Day (full)

## **SUNDAY, FEB 10 ▪ LENT 1A**

Gen 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Matt 4:1-11  
9:00a Eucharist w/hymns  
10:00a Formation  
10:45a Parish Eucharist

## **SUNDAY, FEB 17 ▪ LENT 2A**

Gen 12:1-4a; Rom 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17  
9:00a Eucharist w/hymns  
10:00a Formation  
10:45a Parish Eucharist

## **SUNDAY, FEB 24 ▪ LENT 3A**

Ex 17:1-7; Rom 5:1-11; John 4:5-42  
9:00a Eucharist w/hymns  
10:00a Formation  
10:45a Parish Eucharist

## **SUNDAY, MAR 2 ▪ LENT 4A**

I Sam 16:1-13; Eph 5:8-14; John 9:1-41  
9:00a Eucharist w/hymns  
10:00a Formation  
10:45a Parish Eucharist

## **SUNDAY, MAR 9 ▪ LENT 5A**

Ez 37:1-14; Rom 8:6-11; John 11:1-45  
9:00a Eucharist w/hymns  
10:00a Formation  
10:45a Parish Eucharist

## **Lent at Trinity**

### **Ash Wednesday services**

February 6, noon and 7 pm  
Ash Wednesday liturgy and imposition of ashes.

### **Lenten formation - Sunday mornings**

Beginning Sunday, February 10, we'll use meditations from Barbara Crafton's book **Living Lent: Meditations for These Forty Days** (see review p. 7) as the basis for discussion in the Walbridge room. Books will be available for purchase for \$8. Warm conversation and coffee will continue in the Living Room.

### **Lenten suppers - Wednesday nights**

This year, we come together with St. Mark's for our Lenten Series on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 pm. We'll meet each week at Trinity, begin with a simple supper of soup and bread, then continue with viewing and discussion of videos from the "Saving Jesus" series. The series begins on Feb. 13 and ends on March 12. Each session stands on its own, so you don't have to commit to the whole series and no sign up is necessary. (More information about the "Saving Jesus" videos at [livingthequestions.com](http://livingthequestions.com))

### **Artist Series Event**

On Friday, February 29 at 7 pm, the SonoNovo Chamber Ensemble will present **The Harp's the Thing**. The orchestra joins forces with the three leading ladies of the harp in Toledo, Denise Grupp-Verbon, Nancy Lendrim and Julie Buzzelli to present chamber works for harp and orchestra. Ms Lendrim is the principal harpist for the Toledo Symphony. Ms Buzzelli is professor of harp at BGSU. Ms Grupp-Verbon, principal harp with SonoNovo and a member of the music faculty at Owens College, will be giving the world premiere of a new work by Associate for Music & the Arts Wayne Anthony written especially for her, *Suite for Harp and Chamber Orchestra*. Tickets are \$8/\$10 and we are expecting a full house, so reserve your tickets early by calling the church office at 419-243-1231.

## The observance of a Holy Lent...



Lent comes sweeping in early this year, just a few days after Candlemas. As one who seems to require a long turnaround time between liturgical seasons, this feels way too soon. Usually, I try to have one big project for Lent. I try, with God's help, to tackle one area of my life that I have been avoiding, one area that has gotten so cluttered and messy that I can hardly find God in it anymore. And there are many, many disciplines that I would do well to adopt for forty days, and then for forty more.

But sometimes I do better with a gentle suggestion. A friend remarking on her own discomfort at turning in an assignment late will help me look at my own procrastination in a far more proactive light. I'll remember the comment she made, get one project done a little sooner, and find that it really does help clean out the clutter of my life. Maybe I will remember it once more the next time.

As I write this, I begin to believe that this is how God does an end-run around my oppositional streak and breaks into my life anew. And so I will approach this Lent. The web site for *Ship of Fools, the magazine of Christian Unrest*, has a 40 days of Lent Calendar. Check it out at [www.ship-of-fools.com/lent/index.html](http://www.ship-of-fools.com/lent/index.html). It's a little like an Advent Calendar with one thought, one idea, every day. (Note: The dates are for Lent of 2007, but the ideas are timeless.) It is not about 40 days of Christian Self Improvement. Rather, I think of it as 40 ways to be surprised by God. Some of their ideas:

- Go on a media diet
- Out your doubts to God
- Give some stuff (good stuff) you don't need to a charity (How about Next to New?)
- Go to one religious service of a church where you think you might be unwelcome.

Click on the idea, and the real fun, the real challenge, and the real hope, begins. For example, clicking on "Walk and Watch" yields this: Walk the streets of your home town. Don't plan to do anything, just watch people. If they look laden down with shopping, offer to carry some for them. If they look stressed and hassled, pray for them (just in your head, unless you're really brave).

By the end of that forty days, something blocking the resurrection in our own lives may be gone. And we just may be surprised by the love of God once again.

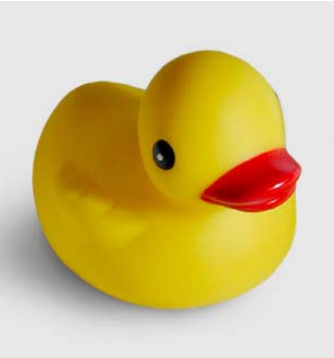
*Liddy*

**“Lent is not about 40 days of Christian Self Improvement.  
Rather, I think of it as 40 ways to be surprised by God.”**

## A Long and Winding Road

*Ed. note: Becky's heartfelt and humorous remarks at our annual meeting on January 20 moved many of us. In response to numerous requests, we reprint here them in their entirety.*

**Annual Parish Meeting 2008: Senior Warden Remarks -- Becky Roth**



It's been a wonderful start to my last year on the vestry. They've begun to taper off some of my medications, and I'm told that many of the wardens who survive a rector change go on to live full, healthy, normal lives... it's good to have a dream.

And we've got an extraordinary [rector] talent here. If you had asked me a year ago, "What are you looking for?" I would have answered without hesitation, and some of you heard me say this: "The cream of the crop. That's what I'm looking for; that's all I want. I don't care what package it comes in – young or old, black or white, male or female, gay or straight, single or partnered. I don't care about any of that – I just want the best. The best heart, the best mind, the best spirit. The best fit for us, for who we are today, and for who we have the potential to become."

I believe that I got what I was looking for. I believe that those friends we applauded and thanked a little while ago for their search work brought us the best. Now let me be clear – I'm not talking about perfection. We've seen Liddy in the font – there's no walking on water going on here. But the best warm heart, the best clear mind, the best smart-ass spirit? Absolutely. The best fit for us as we are, and for the us that God is waiting for, is longing for, is beckoning us to be? Without question. I may still be the senior warden, but we have a new "Chick in Charge".

The path that brought us to this place was not an easy one. Any adventure is likely to involve some bumps and bruises, and this one was no exception. So I want to remind you of part of the prayer that we said together when I first introduced the search committee to you and we blessed them here:

*Generous God, heal us from the hurts of the past, and grant us such a vision of your purpose for us, and such an assurance of your extravagant love, that we may find and call a faithful pastor who will help us to grow more brave, more ready to hear, more ready to serve.*

"Heal us from the hurts of the past," we said. I know there have been many. But I also remember that the resurrected Christ didn't spend his remaining time on earth chewing over old insults, nursing grudges against the powers who had him killed or the friends who abandoned him to face humiliation and death alone. He spent those precious days with those same lousy friends, repeating over and over, "Forgive others. Forgive yourselves. Take this second chance. Begin again."

During this transition time, I prayed that I would never be in the position of one day telling our top candidate for the rector's job, "Well, we've spent the last few years whining among ourselves about how badly we've been treated, and sharing our anger and disappointment with anybody who'd listen." No matter how you try, it's really hard to make that sound appealing, or God-focused.

We begin to forgive by deciding, not by feeling. By deciding to let our anger and disappointment loose into the wind, into God's heart, so that it rests in the past where it belongs. This isn't denying the pain; it's just electing to move on. We can't change what happened, but we can change what happens now. Forgiveness is a gesture toward the future.

Please, forgive me for the ways I've disappointed you, the times I've failed to listen, the things I didn't do to ease this journey for you. I hope you know that I am fiercely devoted to this community, but that doesn't keep me from being just as much of a screw-up as anyone else. So please forgive me. Forgive others. Forgive yourself. Take this second chance. Begin again.

**"God's been patient with us, softly calling our name like a mother tenderly waking her baby from a long nap."**

Back to that prayer:

*Generous God, heal us from the hurts of the past, and grant us such a vision of your purpose for us, and such an assurance of your extravagant love, that we may find and call a faithful pastor who will help us to grow more brave, more ready to hear, more ready to serve.*

“Grant us such a vision of your purpose for us,” we said. What are you looking for, Jesus asked Andrew and his friend in today’s Gospel. What are we looking for? Now that we’ve got a faithful pastor who will help us to grow more brave, what’s next? Remember, it’s not up to Liddy to answer that question. She may be the one in the sacred frock, but if we really believe that God is truly, madly, deeply in love with each one of us, does it make any sense that we’d ask someone else how we should respond?

The Trinity community’s response should be captured in our mission statement, which is printed inside the front cover of the annual report. It’s time now for us to embody those statements, to make them come alive, to incorporate them into our DNA, to tattoo them onto our hearts. There’s nothing more to distract us from this, nothing else we have to do first. God’s been patient with us, softly calling our name like a mother tenderly waking her baby from a long nap.

There are some amazing times ahead. I’d bet that God can hardly wait!

## Explore this old church

Ever wonder where the water in the font comes from? Or where the bride waits and dresses before walking down the aisle at Trinity? Well, here’s your chance to find out. Lots of folks only know the most public parts of our wonderful old building. If you’d like to discover more of Trinity, join Wayne after the late service on Sunday, February 17 and we’ll do a church crawl. (Get some coffee hour goodies first!) We’ll check out all the little corners and nooks of this great old complex. Meet in the Living Room and take a half hour tour of the building. If you’ve been looking for your special ministry here, maybe this is a chance to find it, because there are lots of things hiding corners waiting for someone’s personal touch. See you on the 17th!

*Wayne Anthony, Associate for Music and Arts*

## Film explores families' journeys with lesbian/gay family members

**For the Bible Tells Me So** will be presented at Collingwood Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, February 19 at 7 p.m. Trinity is a co-sponsor with Equality Toledo and other area churches.

From the website: "Can the love between two people ever be an abomination? Is the chasm separating gays and lesbians and Christianity too wide to cross? Is the Bible an excuse to hate?"

Through the experiences of five very normal, very Christian, very American families -- including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson -- we discover how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child. Informed by such respected voices as Bishop Desmond Tutu, Harvard's Peter Gomes, Orthodox Rabbi Steve Greenberg and Reverend Jimmy Creech, *For the Bible Tells Me So* offers healing, clarity and understanding to anyone caught in the crosshairs of scripture and sexual identity. "

## Thanks from Hydie Ralston

Thank you for your blessings, words of encouragement and hugs. While I am excited about aligning my spiritual life with the teachings of The Buddha, I am going to miss you all. Being in your midst for four years has been very nurturing for me, and I sense the excitement and energy at Trinity as you look for more ways to fulfill your inspired and challenging mission statement. I will continue to support your work through my annual pledge and remain on the mailing list so I can keep up to date on what's happening at Trinity. You are a mighty group.

Love,  
Hydie

## Lenten personal hygiene project

It has become a tradition at Trinity during Lent to put together personal hygiene packs for shelter residents. These packs can be given to people coming in to area shelters and are very important in helping to make their stay there easier and to improve their self esteem. Zip-loc bags with lists for men (blue), women (pink) and children (yellow) will be available in early February. Filled bags should be brought to church on Sunday, March 9 for blessing prior to distribution to the shelters. Lists of hygiene supplies will also be posted on the web ([trinitytoledo.org](http://trinitytoledo.org)).

## Feed Your Neighbor during Lent

Trinity is an ongoing supporter of the work of Salem Lutheran Church, located not far from us, across Cherry Street in the Vistula District. During Lent we make a special effort to bring in food and supplies for their ministry in one of Toledo's oldest and most needy neighborhoods. Pastor Mary Lou Baumgartner says: "For the past eighteen years I have had the best job because, even when I'm not looking, Jesus is always showing up at Salem. Jesus shows up in the kid who comes looking for a place to get warm because there's no one home to let him in or whose mother has sent her away because she doesn't want her to see what's going on there; in the teen whose dad is in jail; in the single father who comes looking for a positive influence to get him on the right track; in the disabled adult who can't quite find a place to fit in; and, in the senior who doesn't have money to stretch for both utilities and medicine. He shows up in the twenty-something mom who never finished high school with three kids whose husband won't let her get her GED. Jesus also shows up in the Bible study group from Sylvania who arrives with three carloads full of winter coats, in the lawyer from South Toledo who sends a check for the feeding program and in the youth group from North Carolina who brings paint and paint-brushes to spruce up the parish house."

Salem's program director, Bidy McGaha, who grew up a block away, is fond of saying, "If Jesus were around today, he'd come to

Salem for sure, because Salem's neighborhood – where there are prostitutes and tax collectors and drug addicts and all sorts of sinners – is Jesus' turf; its where he'd feel comfortable hanging out."

Foods we can donate include: canned, unsweetened juice grapefruit or orange, powdered milk, canned fruit and vegetables, cereals, hot and cold, peanut butter, canned meat, tuna, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese or baked beans, soup and crackers. Please bring your gifts in on Sundays and place in the Feed Your Neighbor basket in the sanctuary.

We received a letter of thanks recently from Salem's Treasurer, Craig Bruns who says: "Salem gratefully acknowledges the continued support of Trinity Episcopal. We have been so blessed at Salem ... as we continue our north Toledo ministry. Please convey our thanks and appreciation to all at Trinity and may the Lord continue to bless your many ministries."

## Thanks from FOCUS

We have received this nice letter from board member Janet Snider at FOCUS, our ministry partner, thanking us for our Christmas Angels gifts:

"On behalf of FOCUS and its staff, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for your commitment to making this past Christmas brighter for our families and their children. You have shared the true meaning of the holiday by giving of both time and material gifts to the less fortunate in our community. The generosity that our families experienced this holiday is truly amazing. Without the support of caring people in congregations, schools, organizations and businesses, FOCUS could not continue its mission of helping people in need move from poverty to economic stability. "

... and COMPASS

We give a small annual gift to COMPASS Corporation for Recovery Services and have received this message from William Sanford, President and CEO: "I want to thank everyone at Trinity Episcopal Church for your donation to COMPASS. COMPASS is a non profit organization specializing in substance abuse treatment. Your gift will enable us to better serve those who come to us for assistance. Most of our patients have little or no income, so your gift is greatly appreciated."

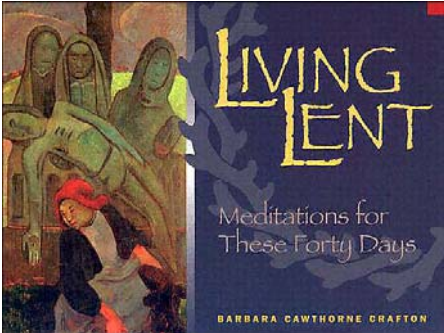
*Valerie Garforth, Outreach Chair*

## Resources for Lent

### PRINT

#### Living Lent: Meditations for These Forty Days

By Barbara Cawthorne Crafton  
Morehouse Publishing



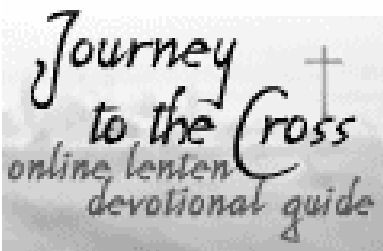
In "Living Lent," Episcopal priest Barbara Cawthorne Crafton draws texts from the Episcopal church hymnal, using them as the basis for a series of reflections around Lent. Although some of the reflections deal with somber topics, they are not depressing, rather they invite the reader to ponder, think about and work through serious issues. She also has a great sense of humor.

This is a great Lenten resource: rather than being self-focused, it broadened my perspective and helped me put my own sins and difficulties into context. -- *Amazon.com customer review*

We'll be using this book as the basis of our Sunday morning formation during Lent. (See p. 2) Copies will be available for purchase from the office.

### DIGITAL

#### Journey to the Cross



**Journey to the Cross** ([journeytothecross.org](http://journeytothecross.org)) is the Lenten series of online devotions at [d365.org](http://d365.org). The site gives you a time to center yourself, read scripture and a devotion and pray. [d365.org](http://d365.org) is sponsored by three denominational partners: the Congregational Life office of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the Youth Ministries of the Episcopal Church in America.

## Resource for election season

*Setting the 2008 national agenda from a Christian perspective*

Members of Holy Trinity's Peace & Restorative Justice Community wish to offer you a gift: a national agenda addressing major election-year issues of public policy. (The Church of the Holy Trinity is an Episcopal parish in downtown New York.)

The agenda examines the issues through a Christian lens and makes specific public policy recommendations, taking into account the wisdom of scripture, the teachings of The Episcopal Church, and the consensus views of the Community.

The Community members are not telling you what to think, and certainly not for whom to vote, yet they do hope *Setting the 2008 National Agenda: From A Christian Perspective* will encourage you to examine you own perspectives and to participate in the 2008 elections.

You can download a PDF version of this document at [holytrinity-nyc.org](http://holytrinity-nyc.org).

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL — PLEASE HANDLE PROMPTLY

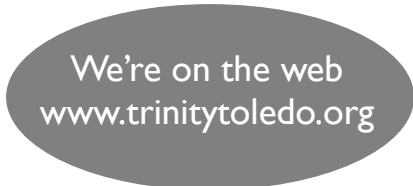


# Trinity Episcopal Church

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### Parish Staff

Elizabeth Hoster, *Rector*  
Wayne F. Anthony, *Associate for Music and the Arts*  
Susan Lowrey, *Associate for Spiritual Development*  
Marie Harkey, *Associate for Digital Ministries*  
Virginia Shafer, *Executive Secretary*  
Jane A. Bueche, *Parish Accountant*  
Bridget Blanchard, *Organist*

### Parish Vestry

Becky Roth, senior warden; Steve Salander, junior warden; Charles Kiskaddon, treasurer; Jeff Albright, Lucia Cooper, Bud Gartz, Jane Gomersall-Zohn, Jason Rahe, Jennifer Siebold, Sherre Owens Smith, Karen Wabeke, Jim Zechman.

### Parish Offices

Mon thru Fri, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm  
Phone 419.243.1231 Fax 419.243.0920  
Email: trinity@trinitytoledo.org

### Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

2230 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2499  
800.551.4815 216.771.4815  
The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., *Bishop Ordinary*

### Next-to-New Thrift Shop

Mon & Thurs, 9:30 am – 3 pm;  
Jeanne Mitchell, *Manager*

### Building Services

Johnson's Cleaning Services, *Housekeeping*

## services

**SUNDAYS** 8:45 & 10:45 am, Holy Eucharist  
9:45 am Formation for all ages  
**HOLY DAYS** as announced

## prayers

### FOR THE PARISH COMMUNITY

Rick Powell and the St. Paul's Lutheran community, Ruth Archer, Marshall Brown, Paul Fager, PFC Matthew Drake, residents of the Renaissance Apartments; those on death row, all victims of war and violence; Marie Harkey and David S. Nelson in their continuing vocational discernment. Chris Windnagle & Jennifer Siebold and Derick & Beth Oyler (awaiting the birth of a child).

**For those who have died:** *In the parish:* B.R. Hatfield (Mildred Hatfield), Allen Tennant (Brandt & Margo Tennant), *In the world:* Lois Nettleton (actress), Suzanne Pleshette (actress), John Stewart (singer/songwriter), Heath Ledger (actor), Margaret Truman Daniel (writer).

## vision & mission

**Trinity is called to be a progressive, inclusive and creative urban community.**

- We will practice radical hospitality.
- We will be engaged in the life of our city.
- We will stand with those in need: the poor, the sick, the friendless, the marginalized.
- We will actively invite all to experience and celebrate God's living presence.
- We will journey together toward a Christ-centered life, pursuing personal ministries that connect us to God, to one another, and to the world around us.