

Trinity Topics

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church in Toledo, Ohio

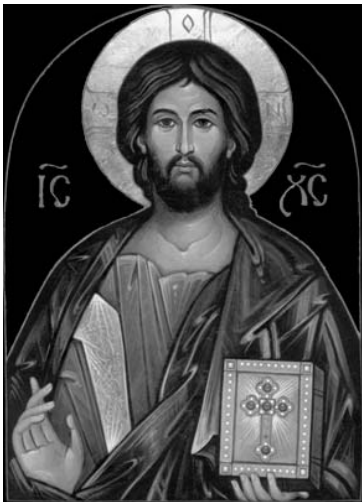
JUNE 2008 VOLUME 134, NUMBER 6



Parishioners
plant trees at
Pearson
Metropark.

Read more on
page 6.

Caring for all of creation



Not all teachers take the summer off.

*Come see what we're learning.
Sundays at 9 & 10:45
Adult formation at 10*

Trinity Episcopal Church

trinitytoledo.org ■ 419-243-1231

PROGRESSIVE • INCLUSIVE • CREATIVE

Choir members perform cabaret

On Friday, June 20 and Saturday, June 21 several parishioners and our own Wayne Anthony perform in *Life is a Cabaret III*, a fundraiser for the Perrysburg Symphony Chorale, directed by Wayne Anthony.

This is an evening of food, fun, and humor at the 3100 Club at the Toledo Hilton on the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. The evening begins with a cash bar at 6:30. At 7 there will be a welcome and a sumptuous dinner banquet. (The food is truly superb!) A silent auction of gifts and work by local artists also begins at 7. At 8, the Once-in-a-Blue-Moon Players take the stage with two hours of musical ridiculousness. The gifted performers (Chuck Kiskaddon, Dan Ferguson, Joe Kaiser, Wayne Anthony, Courtney Altenburg, Su Elliot, Lisa Alleman, and Bridget Blanchard) stop at nothing short of pure burlesque in their attempts to make you laugh...all through creative takes on familiar ballads, torch songs, and musical theatre numbers! At intermission, we break for a dessert buffet, and the entertainment then continues until 10.

The past two years have sold out so this year we have expanded to two evenings to give even more people a chance to share the silliness. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$90 per couple and can be purchased by contacting either Wendy Kiskaddon wkiskaddon@buckeye-express.com or Wayne Anthony music@trinitytoledo.org

SUNDAY, JUN 8 • PROPER 5A

Gen 12:1-9; Rom 4:13-25; Matt 9:9-13, 18-26
9:00a Traditional Eucharist
10:00a Formation
10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, JUN 29 • PROPER 8A

Gen 22:1-14; Rom 6:12-23; Matt 10:40-42
9:00a Traditional Eucharist
10:00a Formation
10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, JUN 15 • PROPER 6A

Genesis 18:1-15; Rom 5:1-8; Matt 9:35-10:8-23
9:00a Traditional Eucharist
10:00a Formation
10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, JUL 6 • PROPER 9A

Gen 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Rom 7:15-25a;
Matt 11:16-19, 25-30
9:00a Traditional Eucharist
10:00a Formation
10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, JUN 22 • PROPER 7A

Genesis 21:8-21; Rom 6:1b-11; Matt 10:24-39
9:00a Traditional Eucharist
10:00a Formation
10:45a Festive Eucharist

What do you mean, Church Summer School?



Relax, you passed all of your classes. That’s what grace is all about. But we WILL continue to have adult forum in June and July.

Wayne and I have been talking, and both of us have wanted to teach “Trinity Liturgics 101.” Usually Wayne is busy with the choir during adult forum, but the choir has the summer off, so he can teach. The early service is a little shorter during the summer, so I have more time to teach as well.

Praying Shapes Believing, named after Leonel Mitchell’s primer on the theology and spirituality of the Book of Common Prayer,

will focus on how we plan worship at Trinity, and how we move through the seasons of the church in a way that is both ancient and modern. We will get more familiar with the Book of Common Prayer, which is not just a liturgical source, but a source of what we hold common in our belief. (Surprise—we use the BCP far more than many may know. We may not have those red books in our hands every Sunday, but we are worshipping with the same principals as Anglicans all over the world!) Together, we will come up with new ideas on how to improve our worship experience.

This will give those of you looking to be confirmed in November more information about Episcopal worship. We will cover other topics, such as basic church history, creeds, and contemporary church issues, in the fall.

Why is this so important? Because our brief time together on Sunday is our time to refuel and reflect: We gather, hear scripture, interpret it, re-connect with the tenets of the faith, pray, share in one bread and one cup, and go out into the world again, ready to serve Christ in others. How we pray as a community affects how we see and serve the world, and how we see and serve Christ.

Let’s take some time together to learn that process better, and learn how others in our communion pray as well. We may be surprised by all that we have in common, and we may be surprised by what springs anew.

Liddy

How we pray as a community affects how we see and serve the world, and how we see and serve Christ.

Wade in the (Creek) Water

Becky Roth writes about her experiment in stewardship and faith.

I grew up in an undeveloped area just outside the suburbs of Dayton. There were woods behind our backyard, and a small creek ran beside our property. I spent many hours exploring that creek, digging and poking, wading and wandering, investigating wildlife and searching for abandoned treasure.

Late last year, I found myself poking around in another kind of Creek, this time via the Website of a local faith community. I was looking for information about an outreach effort I'd heard about, but I found something else that intrigued me - a "three month tithing challenge."

Here's how the challenge works: Members are invited to "test God's faithfulness by tithing (giving 10% of your income) to God through ____Creek Church for a three month period. At the end of the three month period, if you're not convinced of God's faithfulness as a result of your obedience to His (sic) Word, then you will be entitled to a refund of the full amount of contributions made during that three month period."

It's simple, straightforward, even somewhat biblical (see Malachi 3:10). In fact, it probably does the

Bible one better - I don't think God ever offered a money-back guarantee.

Now I've never been big on God-testing. It strikes me as foolish, and in extremely poor taste. And what if I run the test and God doesn't perform? Sounds like a lose-lose situation to me. But as I chewed on the idea, I decided I was willing to take this dare - sort of. I was not inclined to "test God's faithfulness" but I would consider testing my own. Could I actually bump up my Trinity pledge (OK, this wouldn't be a bump, it'd be a shove) to a



full tithing? No more playing the gross-versus-net game; no more assuming that only people with six-figure incomes (which mine most assuredly is not) had room in their budgets for tithing. Could I offer God ten percent? If faith is defined as trusting without reservation, did I have that much faith?

It took my breath away just thinking about it. And yet... it was only for three months. This wasn't a lifelong commitment, or even a yearlong one. Three months. I didn't even have to put anything in writing. I could set my 2008 pledge at the more comfortable level I had in mind (a nice increase over 2007), and if I paid extra a few times, I knew that no one from Trinity would call and ask me what in the world I was doing. It would be my own private experiment. Did I have the courage to explore these unfamiliar waters?

Ten percent for God left ninety percent for me. Well, that sounded better; actually it sounded kind of stingy. Certainly with some adjustments to my spending and saving, I could live on ninety percent of my income... and it was only for three months.



I've never been big on God-testing.

The first month, January 2008, was a little scary – some holiday bills were due and WHAT IF I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY? Things worked out OK, but just barely (at least that's how it felt). Clearly I needed more practice trusting without reservation.

February started out well. I began to relax and think that maybe this fresh way of living my faith was going to be manageable. Then I had a visit with my mother that was surprisingly different and extraordinarily positive. As I drove away, I said in amazement, "Thank you, God!" But then I froze. Wait a minute... was my mother's unexpected new outlook somehow connected to my tithing? Was this God's faithful response to my faithful giving?

That was way too "Twilight Zone" (or "Punk'd") for me. I'm pretty confident that God doesn't perform magic tricks for my benefit. So then what was this – a weird coincidence? Or maybe... maybe my attempt to trust God had made me more open to seeing my life with grateful eyes. I had noticed one of the many incredibly good things around me, and for a change I gave credit where it was due. That's an explanation I can live with, and it contains magic enough for me.

Several months later, I can report that the results of my ongoing experiment are overwhelmingly positive. I've calmed down a lot, and am doing fine on "only" ninety percent of my income. I won't be asking anyone for my money back. Astonishingly good things continue to occur in my life, which sometimes gives me pause. But I've come to understand tithing as simply a form of vision correction. It's more expensive than my reading glasses, but the clarity it provides me (about God and about myself) is unsurpassed.

Neighbors make a difference

As part of its annual **Neighbors Make the Difference Day**, KeyBank closed its offices early on Tuesday, May 20 to give their employees the opportunity to donate an afternoon to volunteer at local charitable organizations. About 15 volunteers from KeyBank joined several Trinity parishioners including Scott Dibling, Valerie Garforth and Barbara Clarke for a "mini blanket blitz". Judy Meeks and Mary Wabeke organized the blitz and the volunteers made 48 blankets in just one afternoon! What a great example of how we, and a company like KeyBank, can be "engaged in the life of the city."



MEMBER MATTERS

A documentary about the Toledo Symphony Orchestra written and co-produced by **Ann Stranahan** airs on WGTE on Wednesday, June 11 at 10:30 pm, Thursday, June 19 at 8:30 pm, and Sunday, June 22 at 10:30 am.

Pat Crawford received the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America. The Silver Beaver Award is presented for distinguished service to young people within a BSA local council.

Global Youth Service Day

Sherre Smith reports that six youngsters and two adults volunteered on Saturday, May 24 to help her work in the grounds around Trinity as part of Global Youth Service Day. She reports: "They raked the beds on St. Clair Street and swept the walk. We filled up one big trash bin and two smaller ones. Then we went to the Plaza and they had a ball cutting down the dead tree in the bed against Four SeaGate. We left many plastic bags of debris on the Plaza for John to dispose of and I thank him!" Global Youth Service Day is sponsored by The Community Partnership and Trinity was contacted about it through LOVE Inc. Sherre reports: "Some of the youngsters are associated with a program called "It Takes Two," learning to be fathers, some are on probation associated with Lucas County Family Services. They especially requested a downtown service site. We are it!"

Trinity partners with Metroparks

On Sunday, May 18 we held our second



Valerie, Marie and two workers at the park help place a tree.

annual tree planting in Pearson Metropark and have received thanks from Terry Breymaier, Chairman of Pearson North Committee who says: "I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Trinity Episcopal Church for the \$500 donation made to purchase native trees for the swamp forest

at Pearson North. Your generosity will be recognized in Metroparks Members Magazine. Thank you for your continuous support and being a Partner in Preservation. It is through people like you that we are able to continue preserving history and strengthening our educational and environmental focus." The five maple trees that we planted round a large pond in Pearson North immediately transformed a muddy, barren landscape into a garden – what a joyful experience!

St. Paul's Community lunch thanks!

Thank you to all who joined me in serving a nutritious lunch to over 160 hungry Toledoans on Sunday May 25: Wendy Johnson and her son Eric, Steve Lombardo, Karen and Mary Wabeke. We served Jeff Albright's tuna salad recipe along with hard boiled eggs provided by Lois Nelson and Northview student Thomas Hopkins, as well as salad, rolls & butter, tomatoes, cheese, bananas and cookies. Thanks to Wendy Johnson also for her gift of 20 gallons of fruit juice! This is a very worthwhile and moving ministry and the next St. Paul's Sunday lunch will be coming up soon!

Harbor House plant fundraiser

Thanks go to Sherre Smith for planting three flats of annuals purchased by Outreach to support the Harbor House Spring Plant Fundraiser in the Plaza beds and around Trinity. We hope that knowing we purchased these plants to benefit Harbor House, which provides transitional housing for women recovering from alcohol and drug addiction, will add to our enjoyment at seeing the plants grow and thrive!

Renaissance News

Troy Alexander, Manager of Renaissance Senior Apartments, reports that they have received the permit to reoccupy the building and residents from the third and fourth floors began moving back into their homes in late May. We will be planning a special "Welcome Home" treat for them once they have settled back in and more about this will be announced in due course. Sadly it appears that the Group Home will not be reopening and we do not as yet know what the impact of this will be.

News from Stewart Academy

Agreement has been reached to proceed with the planned creation of a new playground/garden space adjacent to the school and bids have been put out to tender. More news of this development as it unfolds! As the 2007-2008 academic school year closes this month, we will be collecting school supplies over the summer and filling backpacks to be donated to the school when the new academic year begins.

Valerie Garforth, Outreach Chair

China: Episcopal Relief and Development earthquake response

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) continues to provide emergency assistance to families affected by the severe earthquake in China.

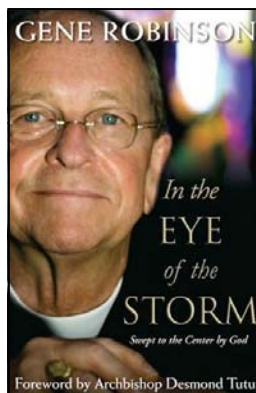
More than 65,000 people are confirmed dead and 23,150 are still unaccounted for from the massive earthquake that shook southwest China on May 12. More than 360,000 people have been injured. So far, 4,000 children have been orphaned by the disaster.

Officials say about 10 million people have been affected by the quake. Five million people in Sichuan Province are homeless. Many are in refugee camps, without proper shelter, food or clean water. The Chinese government has issued an urgent appeal to the international community for 3.3 million tents to protect the quake refugees.

ERD is providing ongoing support to the Amity Foundation, its local partner, to distribute 240,000 kilos of rice to 16,000 people and plastic sheeting and quilts to provide shelter and warmth to 8,000 families affected by the disaster. The Amity Foundation is targeting areas in Sichuan, Gansu, and Sha'anxi provinces where many people continue to suffer from harsh conditions, cold weather, and the loss of their homes, furniture, and all their personal belongings.

ERD will continue to work with local partners on long-term reconstruction and rehabilitation of the devastated areas. Housing, hospitals, clinics, schools, and water systems all need to be rebuilt.

To help people affected by the earthquake in China, make a donation to ERD's "Emergency Relief Fund" online at www.er-d.org or by calling 1-800-334-7626, ext. 5129. Gifts can be mailed to: Episcopal Relief and Development "Emergency Relief Fund" P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.



Book Review

**The Eye of the Storm
by Gene Robinson**

Ed. note: This review originally appeared on the Diocese of New Hampshire website. To read the full review, go to www.nhepiscopal.org.

When Church Publishing Inc. editor Nancy Fitzgerald approached Bishop Gene Robinson to write *In the Eye of the Storm*, he agreed to do it, provided it “would allow him to talk about his real passion: the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” And talk about the Gospel he does. For its length (fewer than 200 pages), the bishop’s book is rich and comprehensive: it’s a work of evangelism, accessible and informed, grounded in a vibrant theology and spirituality.

The book is organized into five topics: *The Elephant in the Room: Homosexuality and the Church*; *Faith and Life: Everyday Christianity*; *Embracing the Exile: Notes on the Margins*; *God’s Loving Hands in the World: Building the Body of Christ*; and *The Compass Rose: Charting the Course of the Anglican Communion*. The manuscript contains material from lectures Robinson has delivered during the past few years as well as up-to-the minute observations about the Anglican Communion from his sabbatical travels through the end of 2007.

People who thought they knew the bishop pretty well may be surprised by his fairly orthodox theology. As he notes, “Just because I favor taking a second look at what holy scripture actually says – and doesn’t say – about homosexuality as we understand it today, it doesn’t follow that I believe everything in scripture is up for grabs.”

The book is a small marvel in how fully it is shot through with Gene’s faith and Christian witness. Recalling Jesus’ inaugural speech quoting Isaiah about releasing prisoners from captivity, relieving oppression, and healing blindness, Gene reveals who Jesus truly is and what our own work must be. “If we are to be doers of the Word and not just hearers only, we have to go where Jesus went...we cannot know God or follow Jesus without participating in the ‘pain of love and the work of justice.’”

Cate McMahon

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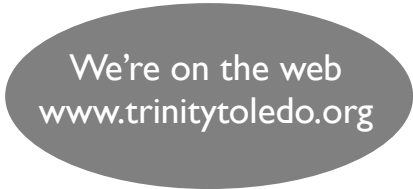
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Susan Lowrey, *Associate for Spiritual Development*
Marie Harkey, *Associate for Digital Ministries*
Virginia Shafer, *Executive Secretary*
Jane A. Bueche, *Parish Accountant*
Bridget Blanchard, *Organist*

Parish Vestry

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

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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 9 & 10:45 am, Holy Eucharist
10 am Adult Formation

HOLY DAYS as announced

prayers

For the Parish community:

Hank Coyle, Charlotte Etter, Ray Lehman, Laurie Madrazo, James Hamilton, Justin Pershing, Barb Simmons, Cheryl Davis, Kate Whitmore, Trinity, Vero Beach, FL during their transition, those on death row, all victims of war and violence; Marie Harkey and David S. Nelson in their continuing vocational discernment.

For those who have died: In the world: Yves Saint-Laurent (designer), Bo Diddley (guitarist), Mel Ferrer (actor/director).

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.