

Trinity Topics

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church in Toledo, Ohio

SEPTEMBER 2008 VOLUME 134, NUMBER 9



Some days
we pray best
when we are
on our feet.

Read more
on page 6.





Evening to Remember

Tuesday, September 23, 7 pm in the Nave

Join us for a special evening of music and remembrance honoring those with breast cancer who have gone on and celebrating those who are still here.

Please bring a small photo or memento of those you are remembering that night. If you are interested in being in the choir for this event, please attend a practice Sunday September 21, 3:00-5:00 at Trinity.



Feast of St. Francis

Sunday October 5, 10:45 a.m. in the Nave

Bring your pets (reptiles in carriers, please!) for a Sunday Eucharist and pet blessing.

A fur-free worship service will happen at 9:00.



BGSU Gospel Choir

Saturday, October 25, 7 pm in the Nave

Get ready for a concert experience that will have you on your feet! The BGSU Gospel Choir puts new spins on favorites and performs many of their own arrangements.

SUNDAY, SEP 7 ▪ PROPER 18A

Ex 12:1-14; Ps 149; Rom 13:8-14; Matt 18:15-20

9:00a Traditional Eucharist

10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, SEP 14 ▪ PROPER 19A

RALLY DAY

Ex 14:19-31; Ps 114; Rom 14:1-12; Matt 18:21-35

9:00a Traditional Eucharist

10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, SEP 21 ▪ PROPER 20A

Ex 16:2-15, Phil 1:21-30, Mt 20:1-16

9:00a Traditional Eucharist

9:45a Formation for all ages

10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, SEP 28 ▪ PROPER 21A

NO SERVICES AT TRINITY

8:15a Runner's worship at Jefferson & Summit

SUNDAY, OCT 5 ▪ PROPER 22A

Exod 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Ps 19; Phil 3:4b-14; Matt 21:33-46

9:00a Traditional Eucharist

10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, OCT 12 ▪ PROPER 23A

Ex 32:1-14; Ps 106:1-6, 19-23; Phil 4:1-9; Matt 22:1-14

9:00a Traditional Eucharist

10:45a Festive Eucharist

How impossible can it be?



Sometimes events in life seem to fall together. Call it grace, call it coincidence, but I take it as a sign to pay attention. A few recent events have changed how I hear the word “impossible.” First, I finally learned how to roll a kayak. This means I can capsize and right a kayak without getting out of it. It sounds like a cool stunt, but it is a safety measure. I thought I would take a class, learn some of the theory, then work on it in a swimming pool over the winter and do my first roll by next spring. Instead, because of some terrific instructors, I did two rolls after about 90 minutes of instruction.

Ninety minutes before that class, I had assumed it was impossible.

A few days later I had my first day in Leadership Toledo. Bob Anderson (theleadershipcircle.com) challenged 55 of us with a variety of problems we had to solve.

The problems went from easy—get a ball around a circle of people as quickly as possible — to what sounded like impossible—a ball has to travel through 25 pairs of hands in less than two seconds. Many people said “that can’t be done,” then people started to come up with ideas. As we nixed several in a row, one member of our group said, “Look, let’s try it. Trying something is better than trying nothing.” Taking the risks took away the stigma of failure. Eventually we did solve the problem.

Then came the mother of all challenges: we were given 12 large nails, and told we had to balance all of them at the same time on a nail hammered into a block of wood. There were many shouts of “NO WAY!” from otherwise bona fide grown ups. But we had a dozen people around each table, everyone stayed at the table, and because of the morning’s activities, we were taking more risks. Also, thank God, I was once again in the group with the woman who kept encouraging us to try *something*. We tried about 12 different structures, and only 11 failed. We got to a solution, a beautiful solid structure that balanced, because we were all at the table, we all contributed, and we were no longer paralyzed by worry about failure.

It wasn’t lost on me that we were using nails. In our faith, the impossible happened despite nails. In times that seem difficult, or even impossible, fear of failure can paralyze us and produce failure. During times when we need a new plan, all of us are needed around the table. We may have to try several plans before we hit upon the one that gives us a balanced structure, or a balanced budget.

I look at other causes we support and celebrate now. Emanuel Children’s Home nearly closed a few years ago, but the director (who was then a volunteer) helped the rest of the staff and board develop a new plan. The Susan Komen Foundation started out of loss ([http://cms.komen.org/komen/About Us/MessageFromOurFounder](http://cms.komen.org/komen/About%20Us/MessageFromOurFounder)) to be one of the largest grassroots organizations in the nation.

And now it is our turn.

We have some challenges ahead of us—see Greg Shumaker’s financial update on page 8—but we have a community that cares for this city and the world. We have a faith community that has been vital to this town for over 150 years. We share in a faith that has the word “impossible” at its heart: it looked like it was done for on Good Friday, only to have the glorious impossible of Easter come a few days later. Our financial situation may be difficult in the next few years, but we can turn it around. Thanks to the events of the past few weeks, I don’t buy the word “impossible” anymore.

Liddy

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Feed Your Neighbor



Over the summer months we have made a concerted effort to collect food and funds for the Feed Your Neighbor program at Salem Lutheran Church. We have taken over several car loads of cans and non perishable items and have sent a check to enable them to purchase supplies in bulk. We have received the following letter of gratitude:

“Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ”, Salem congregation gratefully acknowledges your continued support of this ministry as evidenced by your recent gift totaling \$595. These funds were designated for the Feed Your Neighbor Program (\$345) and for our general outreach ministry throughout the parish community. We continue to serve the individuals and families in need because of the love and support of so many partners in mission. Please convey our thanks and appreciation to all at Trinity and may the Lord continue to bless your many ministries.

—Sincerely, Craig M. Bruns, Treasurer

Habitat for Humanity build

This will be the fifth year that Trinity has participated in the MultiFaith Council Habitat for Humanity build. We are financial sponsors and always have a great team of construction volunteers. The house will be on Waybridge, off Bennett Road between Laskey and Alexis. There will be the usual pre-Build potluck at the Hindu Temple before work starts on Saturday, September 27, when we will lay the floor. Framing will follow the next weekend, then roof and siding during the next two weeks. All of these tasks need many volunteers and shift sign ups will be available during early September. Individual faith groups will sign up to supply food on specific days. David C. Nelson is our Trinity Coordinator and he will be making regular announcements in church.

Buy a Brick - Family & Child Abuse Prevention Center



The Children’s Advocacy Center and the Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center will be relocating to a renovated building in the old Rite Aid pharmacy on Cherry Street in the fall and they are raising funds

through a sponsored brick walkway. Each sponsored brick will be visible as you enter the newly renovated space and will help ensure the work of the Center. The Trinity Outreach Committee is buying a brick on behalf of our congregation which will bear a message from our church. If you would like to buy an individual brick for yourself or in honor or memory of a loved one, or would like to know more about the work of the Center, call Lori Kocol at 419.244.3053 for a form. Bricks are available for \$50 and \$100. Donors will be invited to the ground breaking ceremony and will be recognized on the website www.fcapc.com.

Stewart Academy for Girls

The new academic year began on Tuesday, August 26 and the previous day Outreach Committee members took round all the backpacks filled with school supplies donated by our church members and presented them to Mrs. Morris, a third grade teacher whose students Mr. Keaton judged would benefit most from the help at the beginning of the year. Also at Mr. Keaton’s suggestion, we donated a small carpet for the new Ella P. Stewart museum. Rooms and corridors at the school have been named after women who are famous or have some significance for the school. For instance there is the Marcy Kaptur Dining Hall, the Maya Angelou Library, and the Susan B. Anthony Faculty Lounge. The classrooms are also named after women such as Oprah Winfrey, Wilma Rudolph, Edna Brown and our own **Valerie Garforth**. The Principal’s room is named after Thurgood Marshall! You will also be interested to tour the newly built playground which provides outdoor play space for the girls.

Valerie Garforth
Outreach Committee Chair

Thank you from Marie



I hardly know how to begin to thank you all. Your generosity of spirit completely overwhelmed Kathy and me. Thank you for the amazingly generous love offering, but thank you even more for

sharing yourselves with us. I will take that love with me to Boston and wherever I go from there. I will never forget the image of all your beautiful faces surrounding us as you sang "Bind us Together. Thank you, thank you, thank you. If you'd like to keep up with my seminary adventures, I blog at strongasdeath.wordpress.com. You can find me on Facebook and you can always email me at mharkey@gmail.com.

Diocesan Mission Summit

This year's Mission Summit on September 27 at St. Andrew's, Elyria, is designed to celebrate the ministries we have and to share new ministries and ideas for collaboration. More information can be found at www.dohio.org

Diocesan Youth Event

On Friday October 24-Sunday October 26, youth in grades 7-12 from all over northern Ohio will be at Trinity for a weekend of worship, outreach, and community. If you would like to attend, the cost is \$30 for the weekend.

Diocesan leaders sought

The Diocese is undertaking a broad search for parish leaders who are ready to use their gifts as diocesan leaders. This year at Diocesan Convention, we will elect new members of the Diocesan Trustees, Standing Committee, Diocesan Council and Episcopal Community Services, as well as Provisional Deputies for General Convention. Please consider prayerfully the people in your parish community who are ready to give, grow and serve through Diocesan leadership. Any member in good standing of a parish in the Diocese can nominate candidates to stand for election. Nomination forms are available on the Diocese of Ohio website: www.dohio.org. The deadline for nominations is September 15.

Thank you from the Woellners

Dear Friends at Trinity,

Thank you so much for your prayers, thoughts and cards. It truly lifted our hearts to know your caring was with and for us.

John continues to improve each day and we were happy to worship with you on the 24th.

With love and appreciation,

Lou & John Woellner

Christianity for the Rest of Us

Adult Forum will begin again on Sunday, Sept. 21 with an 8-week discussion of the book *Christianity for the Rest of Us* by Diana Butler Bass. This book describes 10 practices that are signposts of vitality and growth that the author found in thriving faith communities. It can be purchased at Trinity for \$11; it is also available from the public library, at local bookstores and from online booksellers. Get started reading, and then join the conversation on Sundays at 10:00 in the Walbridge Room.

Centering Prayer

An introductory workshop about Centering Prayer will be held at Washington Church (3925 W. Central Ave.) on Saturday, October 18 from 9 to 3. Follow-up sessions will be held on Monday nights from October 20 through November 24.

Centering Prayer is a receptive state of resting in God. It is meant to enrich and compliment other forms of prayer. Centering Prayer becomes richer and easier with practice, so each session will include time for prayer. The cost for the entire series is \$40.

Registration brochures are available on the table under the bulletin board. For more information, contact Joan Fothergill at joanfothergill@sbcglobal.net or call Washington Church at 419-536-3789.

Traffic note

Due to events at the Valentine Theatre, the entrance to St. Clair Street may be blocked from Adams Street on Sunday, September 14 and 21. St. Clair Street and the parking garage will be accessible from Jackson Street

Takin' it to the Streets

Ed. note: Jill Snyder explains how Trinity first partnered with Race for the Cure.



Race For The Cure had always been something that “just happened” every September in downtown Toledo. It was always an ongoing problem to try to find a way to get into the church to worship on the morning of the race.

That all changed for me and my sister and the rest of our congregation in 2000. Our mother, Mabel Hendricks, a longtime member of Trinity Episcopal Church, was diagnosed with breast cancer and had surgery to remove one breast and nine lymph nodes. It was devastating to see someone we loved go through surgery and the chemo and radiation afterwards. Throughout the whole ordeal, she never complained even though we knew she didn't feel well many times. She never let her hair loss get her down, and was so proud when it began to sprout and come back. When she would go to the Survivor Breakfast each year, she always looked for the women with the new scarves on to try and see if she could give them some comfort sharing her experience and giving them hope. We lost mom in 2005; she had just made it to her fifth year of survival.

When September came around that year, my sister, Jane Bueche, and I became active in Race for the Cure. I volunteered and got on their Steering Committee that organizes the Race each year. It was in 2000 that our then priest, Rodney Hudgen, listened to me when I said “Why go through forcing our way into church on this Sunday, let's help the Race instead.” He and the Vestry made that decision and it was then that Trinity became known forever as the church that “Prays With Their Feet.”

Members come together each year and serve in some capacity. We have had water tables where members helped give water to the participants. Many members themselves have raced or walked in the event. Members of the Altar Guild took care of the service that we hold for the participants. I have been the Chair and Co-Chair of the Food Committee for the last eight years, and so have been responsible for getting the food and water in the months preceding the Race.

On Race Day, Jane and I get down to the stadium at 4:00 in the morning to begin setting up the tables and putting up the signs for the food and water. Last year I had a wonderful surprise when many from the church came to help us with

setting up and tearing down. I can still see Ric Archer yawning at 5:30 in the morning!

One of the things Jane and I learned throughout all of this is how many Breast Cancer Survivors worship at our church. It is inspiring when you see them helping on Race Day and realize that they are just like our mom, very special people. Every year, being one little person in the throngs of thousands of participants, and many volunteers, my energy is renewed and I thank God that I am there to share this special day again. If you haven't experienced the thrill of this day, give it a shot this year and help Trinity show what “praying with your feet” is all about.



Many ways to pray on Race for the Cure Sunday

The 15th Annual Susan G. Koman Race for the Cure for Northwest Ohio will be held on Sunday, September 28. For years Trinity has embraced this neighborhood event by participating in many ways. Please give prayerful consideration to how you want to be a part of things this year:

- **Help with food at the corner of Washington and Huron, across the street from the home-plate entrance to 5/3 field (If we have your name, address, phone number and shirt size, you'll get a volunteer T-shirt.):**
 - Set-up (early risers) 6-9 am
 - Hand-out (those who enjoy chaos) 9-11 am
 - Clean-up (sleep in a bit later) 10:30-12:30
- **Attend or help with the Runners Worship Service at the corner of Jefferson and Summit, 8:10-8:30 am.**
- **Run or walk the 5K race course, starting at 9:00 am. Race participants can sign-up on line before August 29th for \$25 or before September 20th for \$30.**
- **Be present at the church from about 8-noon for those who are lost or tired.**

Time to gather around the table

The Vestry and Finance Committee continue to work through a period of financial review with a focus on dealing with anticipated budget deficits. First, the good news: the Nave renovation balance has been reduced significantly, mostly by payments from the endowment. Over time the interest rate on the loan has been lower than what we earn on our endowment, so for now it makes good sense to keep the loan.

As a community, it is time for us now to look together at our financial past, present and future. Some recent history: In 2006, the Finance Committee, with the approval of the Vestry, adopted a 3 year plan to balance the budget by a combination of increasing revenue and cutting expenditures. In 2006, the projected deficit was reduced significantly.

In 2007, the deficit ended up being about half of what we had projected. This was due to several factors, including our only having 10 months of clergy expenses, staff making efforts at reducing spending, and lower interest costs for our loan on the Nave.

In 2008, our third budget reduction year, we had hoped for an even smaller deficit, followed by a balanced budget in 2009. However, our 2008 budget shows an excess of expenses over revenues.

The preliminary budget for 2009, based on current levels of operational expenditures, projects a significant deficit. Trinity's revenues have not kept pace with expenses; while we've experienced an increase in the average annual pledge, our pledge income has not increased significantly. With financial market conditions and debt reduction payments reducing Trinity's endowment funds, trust income is less.

Any deficit must be made up from our "savings", that is our endowment funds. Portions of the endowment funds are unrestricted and available to be used as Vestry directs. Other portions are not, and are permanent endowments from which Vestry can only spend the earnings. Once the unrestricted funds are depleted, we will not be able to take money from them to cover a deficit. It now appears that time will be as soon as sometime during 2009.

In view of these financial realities, Vestry and the Finance Committee are planning to gather the Trinity family together later this month for small meetings at parishioners' homes to share information and ideas about ways to successfully work through these financial challenges. The dates and locations of the meetings will be announced once they are finalized. The meetings will be in the early evening at different convenient locations around the city. We hope many of you will be able to attend one of these important meetings.

—Greg Shumaker, Trust Officer

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL — PLEASE HANDLE PROMPTLY

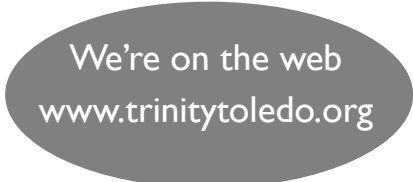


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Wayne F. Anthony, *Associate for Music and the Arts*
Susan Lowrey, *Associate for Spiritual Development*
Marie Harkey, *Associate for Digital Ministries*
Virginia Shafer, *Executive Secretary*
Jane A. Bueche, *Parish Accountant*
Bridget Blanchard,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

Parish Vestry

Becky Roth, *Senior Warden*
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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Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

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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
NOTE: September 14—One Service @ 10:45 am
September 28 worship: 8:15 am - Summit & Jefferson
Holy Days as announced

prayers

Remember those for whom our prayers have been requested: Dolores Collins, Alice James, Fred Miller, Sandy Sheperd, John Woellner, Joe Kaszubowski, Ruth Archer, Kate Whitmore, the children and staff of Emanuel Childrens Home, Trinity, Vero Beach 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 parish: Thomas Kane (Barbara Clarke) In the world: Jerry Reed (singer/actor), Don LaFontaine (Voice-over actor), Bill Melendez (animator/cartoon director and voice of Snoopy and Woodstock).

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.