

Trinity Topics

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church in Toledo, Ohio

OCTOBER 2008 □ VOLUME 134, NUMBER 10 □



**Finally,
beloved,
whatever is
true, whatever
is honorable,
whatever is
just, whatever
is pure,
whatever is
pleasing,
whatever is
commendable,
if there is any
excellence
and if there is
anything
worthy of
praise, think
about these
things. Keep
on doing the**

**things that you have learned and received and
heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will
be with you.**



Curious Concertos

Friday, October 17 7 pm

Mozart: *Concerto for Flute and Harp*
 Telemann *Concerto for Viola in G major*
 Brixi *Concerto for Organ and Strings*

Katie Jones, Julie Buzzelli, Susan Schrieber, and Brian Rotz join the ensemble as featured soloists in the evening which will feature Trinity's delightful Casavant Freres organ as its centerpiece. Tickets are \$15 and \$10.



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.

A free will offering will be taken.

Perrysburg Symphony Chorale—REJOICE!

Friday, November 7, 7pm

Britten: *Rejoice in the Lamb*

Thompson. *The Place of the Blest and Testament of Freedom*

Tickets: \$10/\$8



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
 10:00a Formation for all ages
 10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, OCT 19 ▪ PROPER 24A

Ex 33:12-33; Ps 99; I Thess 1:1-10; Matt 22:15-22

9:00a Traditional Eucharist
 10:00a Formation for all ages
 10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, OCT 26 ▪ PROPER 25A

Lev 19:1-2, 15-18; Ps 90:1-6, 13-17; I Thess 2:1-8; Matt 22:34-46

9:00a Traditional Eucharist
 10:00a Formation for all ages
 10:45a Festive Eucharist with Diocesan Youth Event Participants

SUNDAY, NOV 2 ▪ PROPER 26A — ALL SAINTS'

Rev 7:9-17; I John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

Note: One Service

10:00a Formation for all ages
 10:45a Festive Eucharist

Join us as we celebrate the baptism of Nash

Thomas Gadway and Derek Oyler Jr.

SUNDAY, NOV 9 ▪ PROPER 27A

Amos 5:18-24; Ps 78:1-7; I Thess 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

9:00a Traditional Eucharist
 10:00a Formation for all ages
 10:45a Festive Eucharist

God's Economy, God's Dream for Us



It has been a crazy time in our lives. Economy, elections, oh yes, the economy again. Even before the stock market hit the almost perfect storm, we here at Trinity were planning a time of educating the congregation on our finances and beginning Natural Church Development. And you know what? That is good news.

To quote a recent debate, let me repeat that: That is Good News.

It's good news because we will be working together to know ourselves better as a community in Christ. We will find out what we are best at, and find out where we can be stronger. We will not be finding a completely new identity, but will be strengthening and clarifying God's continuing dream for us.

Some events from the past few weeks, and some upcoming, are clear indications of who Christ still calls us to be. The Runner's Mass for Race for the Cure was moved closer to the starting line, and over 100 people came. The simple act of setting up a table and offering bread and wine, body and blood, and then blessing to all 18,000 runners was beyond exhilarating.

We blessed many dogs and cats and a few other beasts just last week, and were reminded that God has given us great companionship in creation. We also found out that we have several therapy animals in our congregation, and a few "wannabees." Could God be calling us to serve in this way, too?

We have over 100 youth coming soon to Diocesan Youth Event, and our Hospitality will speak a loving God into their lives. Members of our community will help them learn all about praying with their hands and their feet as they help the people of Toledo through many community service projects

Soon we will be making and blessing hundreds of blankets for those in need. Then, the following Sunday, we will baptize Nash Gadway and Derek Oyler Jr.

God's economy is still rich in blessing, indeed.

While our economy may keep us on edge, and while it has implications for Trinity, we need to remember God's economy first. We need to look at where God has given us plenty. God has given us plenty of space--how should we use it? There IS a non-profit out there who can use our new kitchen and My Brother's Place to fulfill Christ's words of "You give them something to eat." God has given us plenty of creativity, which will show in hundreds of blankets for those in need and in new church hangings and vestments for the upcoming holidays.

I've been here almost a year now, and I still remember Becky's question to me: Will you dream with us, and will you work with us to fulfill the dream of God?

Yes. Yes I will.

Let us all pray together and work together, and see where God dreams for us to be next.

While our economy may keep us on edge, and while it has implications for Trinity, we need to remember God's economy first. We need to look at where God has given us plenty.

from the rector

Apple Gleaning for Feed your Neighbor



On Saturday October 18, join area churches for Apple Gleaning at Hoen's Orchard from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 or so. Hoen's is at 12540 Co. Rd. 7-2 in Delta OH 43515. Take US 20 West [Central Ave], then go south on Co. Rd. 7-2 one and one half miles.

An apple gleaning in New Albany Ohio on

October 4 netted about 8000 pounds of apples. It's not a competition, BUT we should be able to beat that--because the winners are the hungry!

FOCUS Gala

The "Salute to the Silver Screen" will take place on Saturday November 8th from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Sullivan Center, Gesu Parish. This will be a delightful evening with music, delicious food, a cash bar, and live and silent auctions. Come as your elegant self, or as your favorite Silver Screen actor! All net proceeds benefit FOCUS, our nonprofit partner that provides homes, intensive services, dignity and hope to over 300 of Toledo's forgotten homeless men, women and children each year. Tickets are \$50. For more information contact Karen Wabeke at karenwabeke@yahoo.com.

Stewart Academy for Girls

Hats and mittens for Stewart Academy. This year we will be collecting hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for the girls at Stewart Academy in the fall. In past years we have collected hats and mittens in January but they are often needed much earlier. We will bless the items in November before taking them to school where they will keep small hands, faces and heads warm. Any color is welcome – the brighter the better!

Knitters for Stewart Academy. Assistant Principal, Mrs. Suzanne Muggy, is a keen advocate of knitting as a pleasurable and

therapeutic activity and she has two volunteers already who are willing to teach the girls to knit. Do you have an yarn you could donate? And you accomplished knitters within the Trinity congregation --how would you like to volunteer an hour a week at the school helping the girls with beginning knitting? If so, please contact an Outreach Committee member and we will put you in touch with Mrs. Muggy.

Valerie Garforth, Outreach Committee Chair

Tent City Personal Hygiene Items

The annual Tent City homeless awareness event takes place this year from Friday Oct 31 -- Sunday Nov 2nd and Trinity will be providing no sew blankets. We will also provide personal hygiene packs, which can be given to arriving shelter residents and help them to take care of personal hygiene needs. Please look for the blue bags (for men), pink bags (for women) and yellow bags (for children) in church to take home and fill and bring in filled bags on Sunday 26th October for blessing prior to distribution.

Member Matters

Sophie Alexis Garforth was born September 22 to Laura and Sam Garforth (son of Valerie and Peter).

"**Tale As Old As Time...**" Four of Trinity's own, Courtney Altenburg, Jason Rahe, Andrew Szczerba, and Helene Szczerba, along with a cast and crew of over 100 members will be telling a tale as old as time... in Northview High School's production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast at The Franciscan Theatre of Lourdes College, November 7-9. Come "Be Our Guest" at one of four great show times:

November 7th and 8th at 7:30pm.

November 8th and 9th at 2:30pm.

Tickets are \$12.00/adults \$10.00/Children and Seniors. Tickets can be purchased through the Franciscan Theatre Box Office at 419-824-3999

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Thank you notes received

Dear Trinity Members:

WOW! Thank you so very much for all the book bags and the school supplies! We Love You!

Your girls at Stewart Academy.

Dear Trinity Episcopal Church:

Thank you for purchasing an 8x8 brick for the entry walkway of our new site. We are very excited about our new location and the opportunities it will bring to better serve the community. These are just a few of the programs your generous gift will help make possible:

- Child Abuse Prevention Program
- Domestic Violence Prevention Program
- Help Me Grow Intervention Program
- Children's Advocacy Center

We are in the process of collecting brick orders and will be sending your order to the printers at a future date. Your contribution is greatly appreciated and we hope it won't be long before you can come see our new facility and spot your special personalized brick! Look for an invitation to our grand opening later this year. If you would like to purchase a personalized brick in honor or memory of a loved one, to be laid outside the new facility, please contact Sarah Corpening at 419 244 3053 or Lori Kocol at lkocol@fcapc.org – all gifts are tax deductible.

Family & Child Abuse Prevention Center

Altar Flowers

Enclosed in this month's Topics is a card to fill out and send back letting us know the Sunday(s) you would like Altar Flowers placed in memory of someone, or to honor a person or event.

Diocesan Youth Event

When was the last time you saw 100 or more teenagers at Trinity?? Please plan to take an hour or so on Friday, October 24 to be a part of a big welcome to the youth and adult participants coming here for the Diocesan Fall Youth Event. They will be arriving between 5:30 and 7:00 pm and I think we can get their experience off to a good start with a radical welcome. You don't need to bring anything – just your smiles and your welcoming "hello."

United Thank Offering

Envelopes are enclosed in this issue of Topics for the UTO ingathering on Sunday, November 2.



Why UTO? The Mission of the United Thank Offering is to invite people to offer daily prayers of thanksgiving to God and outward and visible signs of those prayers which will benefit others.

God calls each of us to grow in awareness of God, our own relationship with God, and our relationship in community with all whom God has created. As habits of daily thankful prayer mature, our personal relationship with God grows. Daily prayers of thanksgiving strengthen our being and doing. The blue box (available on the curved wall) can be a reminder of our many blessings.



Warm Hearted Thanks

To all of those at Trinity who helped me feed the thousands of runners and walkers at last weeks "Race for the Cure", I wish to say a very BIG and warm-hearted Thank You.....what a terrific job! I have these names, and I sure hope that I have not forgotten anyone.

- Jane & Reuben Bueche, Susan & Mike Lowrey
- Jessica Snyder, Steve Salander, Wendy Peck,
- Heidi Aey, Charles Morrison, Erin Battistoni,
- Karen Shultz, Chuck & Wendie Kiskaddon,
- Florence Hopkins, Bella VonSturm-Day, Jane Gomersall-Zohn, and all others!

I truly appreciated everyone's help and I'm sure that God knows that we certainly prayed with our feet this year.

Jill Snyder

What is Natural Church Development?

Natural Church Development (NCD) is a way of understanding church health and growth that views the church as a living organism. The focus is not on numerical growth, but on improving the health of the congregation, with the understanding – impressively documented by research – that when a church is sufficiently healthy, numerical growth will follow. NCD has been used by Episcopal churches across the country, and by Lutheran and Methodist churches in Ohio. It’s an approach to building healthy congregations that has been adopted by the Diocese of Ohio, and the Trinity vestry has decided that our community can benefit from participating in this program.

The NCD process begins with a coach, a facilitator-guide from outside the congregation who has received formal training in the program. Over 50 people from parishes in our diocese have been trained as NCD coaches, and we’ve identified a coach for Trinity. The coach will train a Church Health Team, a group of 5-7 parishioners chosen by the rector and vestry officers to lead the NCD effort at Trinity.

The next step in the process is a survey that measures the health of our community in eight areas. This survey grew out of a series of studies involving 33,000 churches in 60 countries, Christian churches of different denominations and with different theologies, both growing and declining. These studies identified eight Quality Characteristics which define healthy churches and are consistently correlated with church growth. (See the box for more details.)

The survey of about 80 questions will be taken by 30 Trinity members who are active in ministry and involved in some kind of small group life. Liddy will also complete a questionnaire. The results will be computer-tabulated to generate our score for each of the Quality Characteristics.

The survey results come as eight scores, one for each of the Quality Characteristics. The lowest score is called our Minimum Factor. This is the area that is likely to be the biggest barrier to healthy growth. Focusing attention on strengthening this area is expected to produce the greatest improvement in Trinity’s health. Often, the Minimum Factor is a "blind spot" that has received limited attention. While people may initially be attracted to us because of our strengths, if we are not retaining those

newcomers, it is often because of a weakness in the Minimum Factor area.

We will discern our next steps, on the basis of the survey report, to move toward health and growth as a community. We’ll develop an action plan, using Trinity’s areas of greatest strength to improve our area of greatest weakness. We’ll work together for a year to implement that plan, and then take the survey again to see how we’ve improved and what our new Minimum Factor is. The improvement cycle will then be repeated. The entire process must be supported by a group of parishioners who commit to praying for Trinity’s health and vitality; churches that have not succeeded with NCD have often been missing this element of intercessory prayer.

Watch future issues of Topics and eTopics for more details as the Natural Church Development adventure begins at Trinity.



NCD’s Eight Essential Quality Characteristics

- **Empowering Leadership.** Leaders of growing churches empower others for ministry. They don’t use parishioners to attain their own goals and fulfill their own visions.
- **Gift-Based Ministry.** When people serve in the area of their spiritual gifts, they generally function less in their own strength and more in the power of the Holy Spirit, allowing ordinary people to accomplish the extraordinary.
- **Passionate Spirituality.** The element separating growing and stagnant churches: “Do the people in this church practice their faith with joy and enthusiasm?”

- **Effective Structures.** NCD research confirms an extremely negative relationship between traditionalism and church growth. Healthy churches continually evaluate whether church structures help or hinder the fulfillment of the congregation's mission.
- **Inspiring Worship Service.** Worship service style may be liturgical or free, the language may be “churchy” or “secular” – it makes no difference for church growth. What does matter is whether worshipers feel that they have encountered God during the worship service.
- **Holistic Small Groups.** Multiplication of small groups is a universal church growth principle. For these groups to have a positive effect, they must be holistic – they must go beyond just discussing Bible passages, to shaping daily life. In these groups, people can safely share personal concerns and learn to serve others with their spiritual gifts.
- **Need-Oriented Evangelism.** The key to growth is for a church to focus its evangelism efforts on the questions and needs of non-Christians. This “need-oriented” approach is different from high-pressure, manipulative programs.
- **Loving Relationships.** Growing churches possess a measurably higher “love quotient” than stagnant or declining ones. Genuine, practical love in action has a magnetic power far greater than words.

Musings

I woke this morning refreshed. It’s amazing what a good night’s sleep does. My list in place, I headed for the door...

Raccoons. The trash was everywhere. With a huff, I re-bagged, then remembered that somehow I had forgotten to take that darned pill on my way out the door.

To the car with the trash bag, late, hurrying, and I had to drop everything to open the door because I couldn’t get the keys out of my pocket. In the midst remembering that I needed that Britten CD

to work on or I was yet again not going to be prepared for a rehearsal, not to mention the overdue library book.

Then I drive, intent on “getting there,” weaving in and out of traffic, just making lights at the edge of downtown where I was stopped for four lights in a row. This never happens; they’re always timed. In the midst having time to stop myself and my mind and remember that I promised to give those rocks I’d been carrying for weeks to CJ and Judy, and to see the part to the fixture for Next to New stuffed in that little car compartment that I’d promised to get to them weeks ago, and seeing the pile of music that Amy had been waiting on for days.

Into a full garage, searching for a parking place, then into the church, bee-lining to my office, loaded with stuff, to get busy with work, only to have Susan stop me and say she needed me to talk to her about something “big” right now.

Then Ginny says, I need you to look at this first because I really need to get this out, and the bulletins need to be worked on so they could get printed.



Finally, time to think, and say, ok, I’ve got all morning to get the piece finish for choir, and getting stopped by the fact that there were three mailings to do, and Ginny needing to be gone for a couple of days, and her not being able to leave unless they were finished, and needing something to stick into that blank space in Topics so it could be finished, and, and, and.....

And then it hit me. Full-square in the gut, chronos / kairos: our time, God’s time. And that familiar phrase coming back from the days of Rodney: The real work we do isn’t what we do in our offices, but what happens in the hallways on our way to our offices. So with thoughts of the church, and its mission, and where we’re going, and I should be going, what I should be doing, and, and.....

And then a deep breath putting aside my list and listening for what God had to say next.....

Wayne Anthony,

Associate for Arts and Music

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL — PLEASE HANDLE PROMPTLY

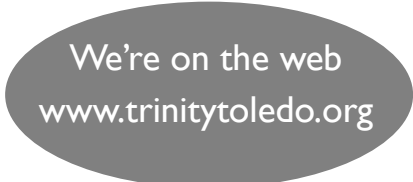


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The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., *Bishop Ordinary*

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

Remember those for whom our prayers have been requested: Herb Landis, Jack Kaufman, Esther Lewis, Alice James, Fred Miller, Sandy Sheperd, Ruth Archer, the children and staff of Emanuel Childrens Home, Trinity, Vero Beach during their transition, the people in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, 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: , Louella Mulkey (Donald Mulkey). In the world: Paul Newman (philanthropist/actor/race car driver), Nick Reynolds (singer).

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.