

Trinity Topics

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church in Toledo, Ohio

FEBRUARY 2009 VOLUME 135, NUMBER 2



Photo V. Ivanovski

***Abba Lot went to see Abba Joseph and said,
“Abba, as much as I am able I practice a small rule of life, a
little fasting, some prayer and meditation, and remain quiet,
and as much as possible I keep my thoughts clean. What else
should I do?”***

***Then the old man stood up and stretched out his hands toward
heaven, and his fingers became like ten torches of flame. And
he said: “If you wish, you can become all flame.”***

—The Wisdom of the Desert Hermits



Sax 5th Ave.

Friday, Feb. 20 7p

Toledo's premiere saxophone quartet in an interesting and intriguing evening of music for this gifted ensemble.

Tickets: \$15 / \$12



Music of Samuel Barber

Friday, February 27 7p

Barber *Knoxville Summer of 1915*

Barber *Dover Beach*

Barber *Adagio for Strings*

Barber *Cave of Heart (Medea)*

Courtney Altenburg, soprano and Charles Kiskaddon, bass join the ensemble for an evening of orchestral songs by this celebrated American composer. Tickets \$15 / \$1



The Toledo Rep

WOMEN ON THE EDGE

Friday, March 6 7p

Brecht *The Jewish Wife*

Bennet *Bed Among the Lentils*

Two outstanding monologues revealing the inner machinations of the feminine mind.

Tickets: \$12—Call 419.243.9277

SUNDAY, FEB 8—EPIPHANY 5B

Isaiah 40:21-31; 1 Cor 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

9:00a Traditional Eucharist

10:00a Formation for all ages

10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, FEB 15—EPIPHANY 6B

2 Kings 5:1-14; 1 Cor 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

9:00a Traditional Eucharist

10:00a Formation for all ages

10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, FEB 22—EPIPHANY 7B

2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Cor 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

9:00a Traditional Eucharist

10:00a Formation for all ages

10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, MAR 1—LENT 1

Genesis 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

9:00a Traditional Eucharist

10:00a Formation for all ages

10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY MAR 8—LENT 2

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

9:00a Traditional Eucharist

10:00a Formation for all ages

10:45a Festive Eucharist

Becoming all Flame

Before you read on, go to the back of the newsletter, read our mission statement under vision and mission. You've read and heard those words a hundred times. It's an edgy statement, a statement that is to lead us not just into radical hospitality, but into radical vulnerability: the kind of vulnerability where we are to unlock the doors of our hearts without knowing who will walk through.



I have to admit, I'm not good at doing that. I'm bad enough at unlocking that door when I know who WILL come in. But I hope, with fear and trembling, to become a new kind of apprentice to our mission statement.

All of us will have the opportunity to live into our words in a new way. Food for Thought, a non-profit group that serves unhoused folks in downtown Toledo, is coming to Trinity. (See enclosed article.) They will start here sometime this month, but will not have an "official" grand opening for a few months. In addition to the ministries they already do at the Library and around town, they be giving and receiving ministry on our second floor, and will give My Brother's Place new life and new meaning.

Don Schweier, associate pastor at New Harvest Church, founded the ministry less than two years ago. Don, Michelle Marks, Matt Wahlgren, and others are doing radical hospitality in a way that speaks holy fire to me. They start with relationships—real, literally honest-to-God friendship. They know that "people are hungry for more than food," and they respond, honoring the dignity of every human being. When we were partnering with them for some ministry opportunities for Diocesan Youth Event, we found out that they wanted to expand. We had all that room on the second floor. We were wondering "what next?" with our mission statement. They were wondering the same thing.

It's a natural combination, a match made in... yep, you got it!
We do not know exactly what this ministry will look like yet. We may have a sock exchange, meals, afternoon gatherings. What we will be asked to give is ourselves. What we will give and receive is relationship—real, loving, scary, unedited, and holy.

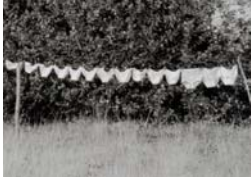
At the end of this month, we will celebrate Ash Wednesday—a reminder to live into a holy Lent and renew our commitment to live lives that speak of not just to death to self, but of resurrection to God. Typically, we stop doing an unhelpful habit, or we take on some discipline that will help others. But instead of doing something or quitting something, what if we tried to BE something? What if we, ember by ember, became holy fire?

Our mission statement is about to burst into flames. It will burn, and yet it will not be consumed. As we learn, as we become apprentices to our own words, we too will learn to burn without being consumed. We will, with God's help, give holy fire to each other, and receive it always, always, from God.

Liddy

f r o m t h e r e c t o r

Undie Sunday February 22



During the month of February, looking forward to warmer days in Spring, we will be collecting socks (white and navy blue) and underwear (any color you like) for the girls of Stewart Academy for Girls. Please bring your gifts in on Sunday 22nd February (World Mission Sunday) for blessing prior to distribution – we will have a clothes line available!

Salem Lutheran Feed Your Neighbor



Our ongoing partnership with Salem Lutheran enables them to help many families in need. In 2008 the Agape program served 10,630 meals on Tuesday nights, an increase of 271 meals over the previous year. Feed Your Neighbor served a three day supply of food to 2,184 families, an increase of 340 families over 2007 and at the very successful Christmas Give away on December 18th 242 children received new coats and presents. We received a letter of thanks from Craig Bruns, Salem Lutheran Treasurer, for our gift to the Christmas Give away: “Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Salem congregation continues to minister to the needs of the members as well as to the individuals and families of the north Toledo community because of the prayers and support of so many partners in mission in northwestern Ohio and beyond. We gratefully acknowledge the continued support of Trinity Episcopal of this ministry. May God richly bless the many ministries of Trinity Episcopal”. As the economy continues to struggle Salem are seeing a large increase in families needing help and they ask us to keep their programs in our prayers.

Reading Is Fundamental



Toledo Public Schools Superintendent, John Foley, has written to thank us for our support for the Reading Is Fundamental program which gives books to each student to take home. He says “We really appreciate the support you have shown to TPS and our students. I want to thank you for working with us, together we can reach our goal – “Every Student will Experience The Power of Learning”.

Multi Faith Council Tables of Eight

Don't forget to sign up for the MultiFaith Council Tables of Eight program during February and March. For more information contact info@multifaithcouncil.org or phone Woody Trautman at 419 475 6535.

Next-to-New Next to Naked

For the last four weeks, we have received hardly any clothing from the parish in our Sunday collections. With the state of the economy in Toledo, we are expecting a large increase in business with better weather coming.

We need women's clothing, men's clothing and other clothing incidentals. Jewelry, cosmetics, perfumes are always in need. Please review your closets and bring in clothes you no longer wear. Remember they must be clean and in good repair.

Annual Parish Meeting 2009: Senior Warden Remarks

How do you know that it's time to stop being senior warden?

~ In the past 2 weeks I've been compared to Shelley Winters in "The Poseidon Adventure", and Simon Cowell from "American Idol".

~ I walked past the choir room during rehearsal this morning, and I was sure I heard, "Na na na na, Na na na na, Hey hey, Goodbye."

~ And people are now referring to Liddy as "the warden whisperer".

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

I get thanked a lot, an embarrassing amount, for what's described as "the work I did holding the community together" during our rector transition. Those are kind words, full of generosity and grace, and I categorically reject them.

I have three reasons. First, never doubt that we did this work together. Holding a community together is not done by an individual. It's done by the community itself, working and playing together, being present and praying together, struggling and grieving together. There are former wardens among you who've faced much bigger challenges, because they served in times when the community was divided. But I was very fortunate, because we worked together. Change can be hard, and I was there to hold your hand, but we did it together. I didn't change your attitude toward our bishop - you did that. I have never set foot in the Renaissance Apartments, St. Paul's Community Center, or a dragonboat - you did that. I didn't lead formation programs, or buy bolts of fleece, or put on concerts, or search for a rector - you did all that. We are, each of us, angels with only one wing; and we can only fly by embracing one another. I am because we are, together. That's ubuntu.

The second reason I reject your kind words is because to credit me alone lets you all off the hook. "That Becky, she's really something. I could never have done what she did." And then you don't have to try, do you? You get to sit back and wait for someone else to step up. Wrong answer. The community's work is not done by an extraordinary individual. It's not heroic or magical. It's a lot of work, but your shoulders are broader than you want to admit. When you do it out of love, you carry what needs carrying. Right, parents? Right, spouses? When you do it out of love, you carry what needs carrying. That's all I did, and you're each capable of that. That was Jesus' amazing example. But who do you think he learned it from? Didn't Mary carry what needed carrying? Didn't Joseph? It's not heroic or magical. When you do it out of love, you, too, carry what needs carrying.

Finally, I reject your loving, generous praise because it ignores the role of the Holy Spirit. When Retired Bishop Barbara Harris was elected as the first female bishop in the Episcopal Church, someone reassured her that "the power behind you is greater than the task ahead of you." We are living proof of the truth of that statement. The power behind us is greater than the task ahead of us. Now some of you may experience the Spirit as a gentle hand in the small of your back, guiding you along on your journey. I guess I need a little more direction than that. For me, the Spirit is more of a poke in the ribs with a sharp elbow.

Do you remember when Mark Hollingsworth was here in November, and I shot off my big mouth and told him that I'd been senior warden longer than he'd been Bishop of Ohio? (Where was the warden whisperer then?) Of course then he had to stand up and repeat that to all of you. But what most of you didn't hear him say was something he told the vestry when he met with us after the liturgy. He said that he was absolutely certain that he'd been called to be a bishop not because the God needed him or the church needed him, but because he needed God and he needed the church. I understand that. I realize that the reason I was chosen to be Trinity's senior warden is because I had things to learn that only you and God, working long hours for five years, could teach me. (What can I say? I'm a slow learner.) I needed you, and you've been such a blessing to me. You've served as the sharp elbows of the Spirit. I still need you, and I need to be in this community, warden or not.

(continued)

When you do it out of love, you carry what needs carrying. Right, parents? Right, spouses?

These continue to be exciting times for us, full of opportunity. Notice I didn't say they were easy times, because they're not. But comfort and ease are not what God calls us into; they're not the results promised to those who follow the Way. It's another one of those adventures.

Each of us should constantly be asking ourselves, "What am I doing to help Trinity succeed in fulfilling its mission? What am I doing that's fostering the growth of God's kingdom, the fulfillment of God's dream the start of God's party?" God, and Trinity, need your experience, energy, wisdom and courage, now more than ever. What you do, and what you don't do, make a difference; you just have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make.

This faith of ours is more than a pleasant pastime or an interesting hobby. Church is not a place we come to, or a club we've joined. It's who we are - a community living a distinctive way of life, in communion with God, creating the kingdom, caring for those on the margins, upending the status quo. Valerie Jarrett, one of President Obama's closest friends and advisers, has 21 life lessons that she tries to live by. One of her life lessons strikes me as the calling of every Christian community: Put yourself in the path of lightning.

In Liddy's last sermon, she put it another way. She said, "Like the Holy Family this morning, God may be leading you on a journey you did not plan, and leading you to safety and wholeness by a route that is utterly foreign to you. This new journey, the one you did not quite plan, may indeed be the one to protect the infant Christ that you carry, so that the Incarnate One will grow in you."

Trinity is not a place where we come just to be fed, but where we come primarily to feed others. One opportunity to do that has just been offered to us by an organization called Food for Thought. Food for Thought is a group of some of the most humble and brave and faith-filled Christians I've ever met, and they have a lot to teach us. They've offered us a chance to put the words of our mission statement into action, to embrace people that Mother Teresa described as "Jesus in his distressing disguise". To put ourselves in the path of lightning.

Don't be afraid of what comes next. Remember - we can do this work together. Have confidence in the incoming senior warden, whoever that may be. She or he will do things differently that I have, and that's OK. If you were here in 2004, you were afraid when Greg Shumaker gave up the warden role; I know I was. But I never heard that fear from any of you, and the next warden won't be helped by hearing it either. Keep the new warden in your prayers, as so many of you did me. Pray for courage and wisdom for that person; they will always need them.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Since I believe that God is still speaking, I'll leave you with a passage from the book of Des'ree (which could be in Hebrew Scriptures somewhere, but you know I'm no biblical scholar):

You gotta be bad, you gotta be bold, you gotta be wiser.
You gotta be hard, you gotta be tough, you gotta be stronger.
You gotta be cool, you gotta be calm, you gotta stay together.
All I know, all I know, love will save the day.

Becky Roth

Member Matters

To all of you who helped clean up, mop up, dry out, clean vestments, and everything else needed during our mini-flood, THANK YOU. A special thanks goes to Jim Zechman, who worked many hours on the weekend of January 18. We are in good shape thanks to everyone's quick action and hard work.

Dr. Joseph Moran has a new address:
151 Constitution Avenue, Brooklyn, MI 49230; Phone: 517-938-8464

We welcome **Solveig Barnes** as the newest member of Trinity's vestry.

Wendie Kiskaddon's mother, Geraldine Nash Wood, entered new life on January 20.

Lenten Reminders



ASH WEDNESDAY

EUCARIST AND
IMPOSITION OF ASHES
February 25, 2009
noon and 7pm.

LENTEN COMMUNITY LIFE

“Soup, Sharing and Service”

A simple meal of bread and soup,
discussion about living into Lent, and
Compline to follow

Sunday evenings during Lent, 5:30 pm
beginning March 1

COMPLINE

Sunday evenings during Lent, 7pm
beginning March 1.

Thank you from Becky

Please accept my thanks for your presence, your generous gifts and your lavish praise at the Annual Meeting. I didn't expect to receive a standing ovation just for standing up, and will try not to attribute that to your low expectations.

Know that you made my years as senior warden so much easier than they might have been, supporting me and each other when it mattered most, and I am deeply grateful. You can trust that I'll continue to be active in the life of our community – playing, praying and responding with you to those jabs from the sharp elbows of the Holy Spirit.

All the best always,
Becky

Thank You

from National Church Residences:

Van Ambrose, Vice President of Foundations for NCR, thanks us for our continued support for the Renaissance Resident Care Fund. He says “Your gift will assist in providing supportive services to modest income older adults who reside in the specialized services area of Renaissance Senior Apartments. It is a blessing to know we can look to you as partners in our ministry at Renaissance”.

Feed Your Neighbor

“Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Salem congregation gratefully acknowledges Trinity's recent gift of \$110.00 to the Feed Your Neighbor program of this ministry. Your continued support of this ministry and to our outreach efforts in general have made it possible to continue our total ministry to the congregation and to the individuals and families in need throughout our north Toledo community.

Sincerely,

Craig M. Bruns, Treasurer.

Mom's House

In part their letter says: “Dear Friends at Trinity Church,

On behalf of the mothers, children, Board of Directors, and staff at Mom's

House, I take this opportunity to thank you for your contribution of \$100 as well as the mountains of blankets that keep our clients warm! Your gifts offer us the privilege to serve these strong and capable young women and set their young family on the road to success. Your generosity inspires us all and empowers these young women to persevere and succeed. It is through the support of individuals like you that we are able to continue to strengthen our programs and to develop new and innovative ways to serve our clients and in turn, the community at large.”

Christina Hicks,
Executive Director



thanksgivings

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL — PLEASE HANDLE PROMPTLY



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Parish Staff

Elizabeth M. Hoster, Rector

Wayne F. Anthony, Associate for Music and the Arts

Susan Lowrey, Associate for Community Life

Marie Harkey, Associate for Digital Ministries

Virginia Shafer, Executive Secretary

Jane A. Bueche, Parish Accountant

Parish Vestry

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Clerk

Treasurer

Jeffrey Albright, Solveig Barnes, Lucia Cooper, Jane

Gomersall-Zohn, Jennifer Siebold, Sherre Owens

Smith, Jason Rahe, Karen Wabeke, Jim Zechman.

Parish Offices

Mon thru Thur, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm; Fri till 12n

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

services

SUNDAYS 9 & 10:45 am, Holy Eucharist (unless otherwise noted)
10 am Adult Formation

Holy Days as announced

prayers

Remember those for whom our prayers have been requested: William E. Siebold, Izzy Durham, Barbara Clarke, David Nelson, Cathy Labash, Theresa Blowers, Linda Carter, Herb Landis, Jack Kaufman, Esther Lewis, Sandy Sheperd, Ruth Archer, the children and staff of Emanuel Children's Home, 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:* James Brady (writer), John Updike (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.