

Trinity Topics

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church in Toledo, Ohio

JUNE 2009



*Not only is another world possible,
she is on her way.*

*On a quiet day,
I can hear her breathing.*

Arundhati Roy



Music of Aaron Copland

Friday/Saturday June 5/6 7p

Copland: *Appalachian Spring*
Quiet City

Down A Country Lane

Nigel Burgoine and the Ballet Theatre of Toledo join the SonoNovo Chamber Ensemble with original choreography to this Pulitzer Prize-winning score. Also on the program are several shorter works by this beloved American composer.

Tickets: \$20/\$15; \$15/\$10

SUNDAY, JUNE 7—TRINITY SUNDAY

Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:12-17; John 4:1-17

9:00a Eucharist

10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, JUNE 14—PROPER 6

I Samuel 15:34—16:13; 2 Cor. 5:6-10; Mark 4:26-34

9:00a Eucharist

10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, JUNE 21—PROPER 7

I Samuel 17:57—18:5; 2 Cor. 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

9:00a Eucharist

10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, JUNE 28—PROPER 8

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; 2 Cor. 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

9:00a Eucharist

10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, JULY 5—PROPER 9

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; 2 Cor. 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

9:00a Eucharist

10:45a Festive Eucharist

SUNDAY, JULY 12—PROPER 10

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

9:00a Eucharist

10:45a Festive Eucharist

Get closer to God.
Spread peanut butter.

Experience the nearness of God this summer by serving your neighbors and the world: in shelters, food pantries, hospices, resale shops, and more. You too can entertain angels unaware.

But What About the LAST Survey?

Yes, I understand the murmuring. “We haven’t worked through all of the ideas we came up with in last year’s kitchen table meetings—what ever happened to those? Why are we taking this Natural Church Development survey before we finish that list?”

For those of you that may not have been here for that, let me explain: Last fall, we gathered in small groups in people’s homes to discuss the financial realities and priorities for our community. We have a great list, containing contributions from many of you, of hopes and dreams and areas that could use some improvement at Trinity. Quietly but surely, we have been tackling much of that list you created.

In the first round, we implemented some ideas quickly in order to balance the budget: we made some difficult staff changes and salary cuts, changed cleaning services, and enlisted the help of volunteers for several tasks, including Topics.

With the building, we have fixed the sound system, changed where AA meets, invited another non-profit to share space with us, improved climate control, and are looking at other creative ways to share our space. We are reducing office and printing costs.

When it comes to outreach, inreach, stewardship, and community awareness, you came up with MANY wonderful ideas. We have a few volunteers for the new ministry of greeters and could use a few more. Long-range changes such as “greening” the church will require much more planning. The vestry has reviewed the list several times to see what we’ve accomplished and what we should do next.



And this is where the Natural Church Development survey comes in! In order to have Trinity on a steady course, rather than going in a hundred good directions all at the same time, we need to determine the next best way to go as a community. Especially with a congregation of our size, we need to first focus together on the area which needs the greatest attention, rally around that, get it up to speed, then reassess where we are. Part of the value of NCD is that it’s a process, not a one-time event.



So don’t think that your voice has been ignored, or that your ideas have been put in the circular file. They are all still very much in the hearts and minds of the vestry and staff and the church health team. In order to implement them, let’s say yes to God’s invitation to us to go to the next right place as we enter Ordinary time.

Liddy

David Nelson's Ordination to the Diaconate

David S. Nelson will be ordained to the transitional diaconate (the last step before ordination to the priesthood) on Saturday, June 13 at 10:00 a.m. at Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland.

You can continue to show your support for David by attending the ordination service, by sending him a note of support, and by keeping him in your prayers.

Gilbert & Sullivan's *Trial by Jury* at St. Michael's

The choir of St Michael's in the Hills will present Gilbert & Sullivan's comic operetta *Trial by Jury* on June 19-20 at 8:00 pm at the church (4718 Brittany Road). *Trial by Jury* is a farcical 45-minute romp about a breach of promise of marriage, and is a spoof on the British legal system. The evening will also include a recital of some of the best-loved songs from Gilbert & Sullivan operas, including *The Mikado* and *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

Tickets are \$10, and can be obtained by calling St. Michael's at 419.531.1616.

MEMBER MATTERS

Carol Statum entered new life on Friday, April 24. A memorial service for Carol will be held at Trinity on Sunday, June 7 at 2:00 p.m.

Earl Wright entered new life on Saturday, May 16.

May Carol, Earl and all the saints, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Congratulations to our graduates of the past year:

- **Courtney Altenburg**, teaching certificate
- **Ben Bueche**, graduation and state certification in cosmetology
- **Susan Lowrey**, Doctor of Ministry in Applied Ministries
- **Susan Shumaker**, Master of Science in Nursing
- **Katie Stygles**, Master of Arts in Counseling

Birthday Blessings

June 4	Sally Sorter
June 7	Jeff Albright
June 9	Steve Salander
June 10 ..	Phyllis Romick
June 11 ..	Keithley Sparrow
June 18 ..	Joan Condit
June 19 ..	Richard Salander
June 21 .	Jonathan Lowrey
June 22 ..	Virginia Connors
June 27 ..	Paula Brown
	Phyllis Klaus
June 28 ..	Mike Lowrey
June 29 ..	Judith Irwin

If your birthday rolls around but you don't see it listed here, that means the church doesn't have a record of it. Contact the office by phone (419.243.1231) or email (trinity@trinitytoledo.org) to add your special day to the membership database, so we can celebrate it with you!

2 flashy celebs on the Jumbotron June 25th

Bishop Mark Hollingsworth will be in town for a Mud Hens game on Thursday, June 25. The Hens will go up against the Durham Bulls starting at 7:00 p.m. that evening. The deanery has reserved a block of sixty tickets to share among the Toledo parishes. This will be a fun, relaxed time with Mark and a chance to get to know one another!



The Importance of Prayer in Natural Church Development

Natural Church Development is fundamentally about change. A church can't become healthier without change of some kind. The desired outcome of the NCD process is that the Trinity community will grow, and this growth necessitates change.

We've all experienced resistance to change in ourselves. We often fear the unknown and resist moving beyond our comfort zones. But faith in a generous God can give us the courage to move forward, to accept the changes that are required for improved health.

The secret of a healthy, growing faith community is not in the brilliance of the leaders or the programs, but in the spark of God's life within the community itself. As we enter into the NCD process, it's vital that we continually invite the Spirit to be an integral part of this journey. Prayer is central to our effort; we will not succeed without God's help. Prayer will open us to change, and to all that God is calling us to do, is waiting for us to do.

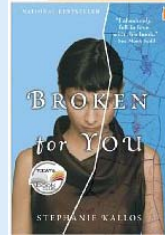
Members of the Church Health Team have developed a prayer for us to use, both individually and collectively, throughout our NCD work. It reminds us that we cannot succeed without God's guidance and love. It reminds us that we share a common responsibility for one another, for mutual growth, and for ensuring that God's kingdom, God's dream, God's party, comes to life here in this place – on earth as it is in heaven. Get into the habit of saying this prayer regularly, and of listening carefully for God's reply.

Trinity's NCD Prayer

Merciful Creator, we invite you to be with us here and now. As we embrace Natural Church Development, keep us mindful of our purpose in this work – to empower your people, grow and strengthen your church, and glorify your name. Fill us with your Spirit of Wisdom and Truth as we humbly examine ourselves and our community. Help us to embrace new opportunities for growth and improvement. Renew our energy, guide our work, and lead us to new life in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Staff Picks for Summer Reading

Here are a few great vacation (or staycation) reading suggestions from the Trinity staff. Some of these have been out for a while, but may still be new to you. There isn't a sacred text in the bunch, but there is some good spirituality in every one...



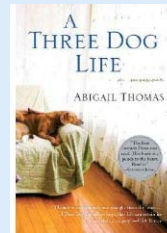
Broken for You by Stephanie Kallos

"The dead," Margaret thought. "They can be so loud." So muses the protagonist of this tale of familial warring, secrets and redemption. A well-crafted plot and crackling wit make this a novel to savor.



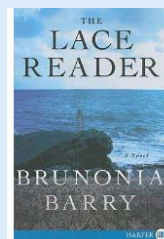
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

An eye-opening account of Afghanistan's current turmoil, with compelling characters whose heartbreaking struggles and emotional triumphs resonate.



A Three Dog Life by Abigail Thomas

Thomas reflects on how her marriage had to be reinvented after her husband was hit by a car while walking the dog, suffering a traumatic head injury.



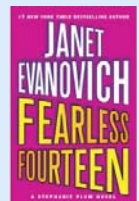
The Lace Reader by Brunonia Barry

The narrator of this mystery hails from a family of Salem women who can read the future in the patterns in lace, and whose history of secrets goes back generations.



Stephanie Plum mysteries by Janet Evanovich

Stephanie Plum, a bounty hunter with attitude, takes down bad guys in Trenton, New Jersey. Fifteen novels in the series and counting.



Salem Lutheran Mission Partners Brunch

Salem Lutheran Church has provided hands-on outreach services to many of its North Toledo neighbors for years, and Trinity is one of its outreach partners. To celebrate this partnership, Salem's pastor, Mary Lou Baumgartner and their Council President, Marv Haar, are hosting a Mission Partner's Brunch on Saturday, June 13 at 10 a.m. at Hope Lutheran Church in Ottawa Hills.

Pastor Baumgartner says: "We give thanks to God for your partnership in the ministry of Salem Lutheran Church. Your prayers, volunteer hours, and/or financial support have sustained Salem's outreach into its North End neighborhood. Though your support, individuals – kids and adults alike – have found nourishment for the body and for the soul, and many neighbors have found a community of faith in which they both give and receive. Through your support a child has learned about Jesus, an addict has found a support group, and a mother has learned how to knit. Through your support,... Salem can continue, as our mission statement reads, 'to witness and welcome all into the Body of Christ.'"

If you want to attend the brunch, please call the Hope office (419.536.8383) by Monday, June 8. If you want to support Salem through the Feed Your Neighbor program, you can make out a check to Trinity and write "Feed Your Neighbor" on the memo line, or bring in non-perishable food donations on Sunday morning, or fill one the Project Feed 5000 boxes with the requested items and return it to Trinity as soon as possible.



Sorting Out What Fits This Summer?

**Next to New can use
the stuff you don't want
any more.**

**We REALLY need summer
clothing (men's, women's,
and children's) in good
shape.**



**We'll also happily take sheets,
towels, pots and pans, dishes,
small appliances, jewelry,
cosmetics, knick-knacks,
tchotchkes, and all that stuff you
were going to regift anyway.**

**All profits go to help folks
who are counting on us.
(See back cover, lower right corner.)**

Next to New
Monday/Thursday, 9:30-3:00
Recycle + Refashion + Regift
REJOICE

Help the MDG Inspiration Fund

In 2006 the General Convention named the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals (MDG) as a mission priority for the next triennium. In response to General Convention's commitment, Episcopal Relief and Development, Jubilee Ministries and the Executive Council launched the MDG Inspiration Fund, with a goal of raising \$3 million in 3 years, by the start of the 2009 General Convention in July in Anaheim.

To date, the Inspiration Fund has made dramatic progress in combating the spread of disease. For example, last December, Episcopal Relief & Development's NetsforLife program, the recipient of 1/3 of the money raised, distributed its millionth long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito net. In China and other Asian countries, vital efforts to stem the spread of HIV/AIDS are being supported. In Latin America, the Inspiration Fund is bringing clean water to rural communities that struggle daily to access this critical resource.

The MDG Inspiration Fund is now only \$135,000 away from reaching its \$3 million goal. You can help the Fund reach the \$3 million mark by the time the church gathers next month for General Convention. Contribute online by going to the Episcopal Relief and Development website (www.er-d.org), click on "Donate Now" in the upper right corner, and check "MDG Inspiration" as the fund you're supporting.

Changes at Sacred Path Books

As it enters its second decade of ministry amid changing consumer purchasing patterns and a severe economic downturn, Sacred Path Books & Art, located at Trinity Commons in Cleveland, is transitioning to a new identity for ministry in the diocese with new offerings.

The name has changed to reflect this new identity—Sacred Path is now Trinity Commons Books & Gifts. While maintaining the store's inventory of spirituality and Episcopal titles, its offerings in pastoral practice are being expanded. In addition, new categories are being added to serve the needs of Episcopalians and the clergy and people of other faiths, including Recovery, Sustainability, Mariology, and World Religions. Hours of trade have been expanded; the store is now open 9-6 Monday-Friday, 9-3 on Saturdays, and 9-1:30 on Sundays.



Consider shopping here for your books — in person, by telephone, or via the website (at the moment, still www.sacredpath.org). Trinity Commons Books & Gifts can order most books if they're not in stock, and ship them to you within days.

On the Threshold

~~Notes from our seminarian~~

Well, it's been a year of transformation for me, and that will continue into the summer. I finished my classes and papers and exams on May 11 and I'm now getting ready to begin Clinical Pastoral Education for the summer. Like field education, CPE is a sort of on-the-job training, where I'll work as a student chaplain at Havenwood-Heritage Heights Retirement Community in Concord, New Hampshire (about an hour from Cambridge). I'm also taking one class during our June term (first two weeks of June). That will be hard, but it's a liturgics class I really don't want to miss called Eucharist and Initiation.

As I reflect on my first year of classes and field education, it's not surprising to me that what I enjoyed most were the experiences that seemed practical. I learned so much from doing field education at The Crossing (for more, see my evaluation from my supervisor, posted on my blog: www.strongasdeath.wordpress.com). I also learned a lot about grappling with difficult biblical texts in a class called "Teaching and Preaching Texts of Terror." You can see a sermon that I wrote for this class on the blog as well. My final reflection (sermonette) from the Crossing is there also, and the Trinity community is mentioned.

I'm trying to keep the blog more current, and I'll be posting reflections on CPE as I do that work this summer. Thanks for your continued prayers and encouragement.

Marie

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL — PLEASE HANDLE PROMPTLY



Trinity Episcopal Church

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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*
Virginia Shafer, *Executive Secretary*
Jane Bueche, *Parish Accountant*
Bridget Blanchard, *Organist*

Parish Vestry

Jeff Albright, senior warden; Jason Rahe, junior warden; Karen Wabeke, clerk; Solveig Barnes, Lucia Cooper, Jane Gomersall-Zohn, Jennifer Siebold, Sherre Owens Smith, Jim Zechman.

Parish Offices

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

Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

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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*

services

SUNDAYS 9 & 10:45 am, Holy Eucharist

HOLY DAYS as announced

prayers

FOR THE PARISH COMMUNITY

Remember those for whom our prayers have been requested: Susan Lowrey, Hank Coyle, David C. Nelson, Jessica Snyder, Nancy Paulas, Herb Landis, Ruth Archer; the children and staff of Emanuel Children's Home; those on death row, including Daniel Wilson, who is scheduled to be executed by the state of Ohio on June 3; all victims of war and violence; Marie Harkey and David S. Nelson in their continuing vocational discernment; and David S. Nelson and Beth Anne Swartz, preparing for marriage.

Prayers for those who have died: *In the parish:* Carol Statum, Earl Wright (Helen Wright), Barb Simmons (Megan Simmons), Hugh Kozbial Ernst (Dick Kozbial).

vision & mission

Trinity is called to be a progressive, inclusive, creative urban faith 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.