



The Trinity Times

April 2007

“O Lord, our times are in your hands.”



Holy Week & Easter

Sunday, April 1

8 AM Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

10 AM Holy Eucharist with Blessing of the Palms and reading of the Passion. Rector preaching.

Monday, April 2

7 PM Holy Eucharist. The Rev. Bill Forbes preaching.

Tuesday, April 3

7 PM Holy Eucharist. The Rev. Tom Pivinski preaching.

Wednesday, April 4

7 PM Tenebrae with Trinity Choristers

Maundy Thursday, April 5

7 PM Sung Eucharist with Footwashing and the Stripping of the Altar. The Rev. Tom Conway preaching.

9 PM - 6 am All-Night Watch

Good Friday, April 6

Noon Service of Prayers & Readings on the Stations of the Cross. Deacon Gail preaching.

7 PM The Good Friday Liturgy.

Holy Saturday, April 7

10 AM Holy Saturday Liturgy

7 PM Great Vigil of Easter. The Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg preaching. (bring bells to ring!)

Easter Day, Sunday, April 8

8 AM Holy Eucharist (said service)

10 AM Festival Sung Eucharist with Trinity Choir augmented by a brass quintet and timpani. Rector preaching.

Easter Egg Hunt to follow the service for the kids and young at heart!

Do you have peace?

The Gospel story we will hear on the Sunday following Easter Day is that of Jesus appearing to the frightened and confused disciples locked in the Upper Room. The Gospel tells us that Jesus “standing among” his disciples said to them, “Peace be with you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Do you long for a sense of peace in your life? Consider the findings of a study from my alma mater, Duke University, on obtaining “peace of mind.” Factors found to contribute greatly to emotional and mental stability are:

- 1) The absence of suspicion and resentment. Nursing a grudge was a major factor in unhappiness.
- 2) Not living in the past. An unwholesome preoccupation with old mistakes and failures leads to depression.
- 3) Not wasting time and energy fighting conditions you cannot change. Cooperate with life, instead of trying to run away from it.
- 4) Force yourself to stay involved with the living world. Resist the temptation to withdraw and become reclusive during periods of emotional stress.
- 5) Refuse to indulge in self-pity when life hands you a raw deal. Accept the fact that nobody gets through life without some sorrow and misfortune.
- 6) Cultivate the old-fashioned virtues--love, humor, compassion and loyalty.
- 7) Do not expect too much of yourself. When there is too wide a gap between self-expectation and your ability to meet the goals you have set, feelings of inadequacy are inevitable.
- 8) Find something bigger than yourself to believe in. Self-centered egotistical people score lowest in any test for measuring happiness.

“Find something bigger to believe in.” Is there some connection between having a sense of poise and serenity, and feeling the effects of the Holy Spirit in our lives? This study says there is and I think so too. When I feel a surge of creativity and confidence; when I feel that I’ve grown spiritually, I give credit to the Holy Spirit. And secondly, when I feel calm and peace taking the place of irritation and turbulence in my life, I credit the Holy Spirit with this too. I don’t think it is an accident that Jesus talks about peace and receiving the Holy Spirit as two connecting stages in our experience of being “reborn into the fellowship of Christ’s body,” as the collect (prayer) on the 2nd Sunday after Easter puts it.

Whether it is on a Sunday morning praying together for peace in our world or our simply wishing for a little peace and quiet in our lives, peace often eludes us. Perhaps what we should be really praying for is to receive the Holy Spirit.

There is an old cartoon around that shows a man kneeling by the side of his bed, his hands folded in prayer, his eyes heavenward, and he is praying, “Lord, you probably don’t remember me - but . . .”

If you have been away from the Holy Spirit for a long time, trust that God does remember you, and desires only to give you peace.

With Easter blessings, Fr. David +

“Peace that Jesus gives is not the absence of trouble, but is rather the confidence that He is there with you always.”

-- anonymous

Inside: Annotated guide to Holy Week & Easter



The Deacon's Corner

Dear Friends in Christ,
We come now to the end of our Lenten journey, to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, to the empty tomb on Easter Day!

I hope your Lenten journey has been one of renewed spiritual strength, and for those who have had the opportunity to share in the Tuesday Night Lenten Series, with our sister

churches, I hope it has been a time to grow in fellowship as well.

I also know that this Lenten journey has been a journey of struggle through illness and loss for many. And, the sorrow of the wider church community to uphold the rights and "respect the dignity of every human being" as our Baptismal Covenant so clearly states!

My hope and prayer is, that as we light the New Fire of Easter, the empty tomb and the resurrection of our Lord Christ will rekindle in us new hope and new life. And, I share with you these thoughts from a meditation by Donal Neary SJ.

Let the fire of Easter be the fire of Christ:
the fire of justice, peace and reconciliation
in our world of injustice, war and bitterness,
the light of hope and courage in the shadows
of agnosticism, apathy and alienation,
the warmth of friendship and affection
in the shadows of loneliness and aloneness and
hopeless.

The Easter fire lights up all that is human within us:
it touches us with the spark of God within us...

May the new fire of Easter be the renewed fire of Christ in our lives and in our church. And, whatever your journey has been and whatever has brought you to Trinity may you find renewed hope and joy in this place.

May you have a blessed Eastertide,
Deacon Gail

In Sympathy

Beloved member of our parish family, Jack Coyle, died peacefully in his sleep Thursday, March 8, at Tower Lodge Nursing Home. Jack had struggled long and needed frequent dialysis. Our sympathy goes out to his friends, caregivers and pastoral support team headed by Deacon Gail, and including Kay Worrell, John Asfour, Mary Pronkin and Joanie McCoy. They showed him much love and kept him connected with his parish family over the past year and a half. His funeral was held Wednesday, March 14th. yatue:



Next Parish Volunteer Day at our
Saturday Soup Ministry: May 5th



Welcome New Members of Trinity!

The following people were welcomed as new members of our parish family on Sunday, March 4th.

Richard Clayton	Janet Kistler
Ron Flecksteinstein	Daniel Penciak
Irhan Gouridine	Andrew Sapienza

Newcomer Reception at Rectory Saturday, April 28th • 4:30 - 6 PM

New to Trinity (self-selecting) or have you been here for a while and want to help others feel welcome? Then stop by the rectory for a little refreshment and a lot of fellowship. This is a relaxed, informal time of getting to know one another. RSVP to the parish office via telephone (732-775-5084) or email (office@TrinityNJ.com). Kids welcome too! The rectory is located at 1222 Sunset Ave., Asbury Park (just before the Wanamassa bridge, across the street from Sunset Landing Restaurant).

Women's Night Out • April 13th, 7 PM

Submitted by Murphy Judge
We have to give a really big THANK YOU to Abbie Carthy and Virginia Ferraro for hosting Women's Night Out in March. Our next get-together will be Friday, April 13th at 7pm at the church. Bring your food of choice or if you have a favorite or traditional Easter food your family always makes, bring some along. NEEDED: Laughter and a sense of humor. As usual it's the women who make this a fun and relaxing night. If you haven't joined us in a while it would be wonderful if you would stop by for our April get-together. Don't forget to check the church message for possible cancellation if you think the weather is iffy (732) 775-5084. If you have any questions call Jean DeVitto (732) 502-9495 or Murphy Judge (732) 361-3155. Look forward to seeing everyone!



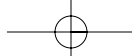
Email Newsletter Supplement

Visit our parish web site to sign up to receive email updates to ministries and programs.
www.TrinityNJ.com



Full 12 Month Parish Event Calendar available on our website.

Deadline for submissions for Trinity Times is the 15th of the previous month. Send your information via email to: office@trinitynj.com. Note: All submissions are subject to space and editing.



Music at Trinity

From the Director of Music, Diane Caruso

Despite the wintry weather in March, a few Choristers managed to make it to the long-awaited and much-rehearsed-for Choir Festival at St. John's Cathedral in Wilmington, Delaware on St. Patrick's Day. The Choristers rehearsed with choir members from Washington, DC, and Paoli, PA, as well as Delaware in a strenuous Evensong program, which they carried off beautifully! Dr. Bryan Mock, Director of the Cincinnati Boychoir and also the Music Director of Christ Episcopal Church in Glendale, OH, was the guest clinician for the day. Dr. Darryl Roland, Artistic Director of the Cathedral Choir School of Delaware was our host.

Last March, we were privileged to host the choirs of Trinity, Princeton, and Trinity, Moorestown in a joint Evensong. This year, our choirs are travelling to Moorestown to repeat the experience – and you are all invited to come along! Sunday afternoon, March 25, our Adult Choir and Choristers will carpool to Moorestown for Evensong at their Trinity at 4:00 PM. Lots of great music, great singing, and great fun. We'll provide directions for anyone who wants to go! (We'll assume winter will be over by then...)

We congratulate Kelsi Salazar Ali-Bey for earning her light-blue ribbon in the RSCM Voice for Life Program. (Look for it in the picture!)

Trinity Choir has been preparing Malcolm Archer's "Sewanee Service" to sing as a Mass setting for Easter Day. It's a lovely, festive setting with brass, timpani and organ. It's also designed to be a congregational setting as well, and we may one day be singing it as a congregation! The timpani will be on loan to us from Freehold High School Band, who will be presenting their spring concert on Wednesday evening, May 9 at 8:00 PM.

Adventures of the Wilmington, Delaware Chorister and Acolyte Festival

Submitted by Lacey Folta and Astrid Caruso

Five of Trinity's choristers sang at the Wilmington Choir Festival on Saturday, March 17. The weather was awful, and only Diane and Astrid made it on Friday, when the festival started. We sang I Was Glad by Hubert Parry, the Sumsion in G Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, and lots of other great repertoire. This was a wonderful experience to sing in such a big choir.



Soulkeeping: United we Thrive!

Stewardship & Finance update

	February	YTD
Pledging & Loose offering:	\$15,813	\$39,166
Total YTD Income:	\$47873	

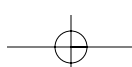
(this amount also includes: school rent, flower fund, fundraising events, interest from endowment and other giving)

Total YTD Expenses: \$51,615

Year to date difference: **(-\$3,742)**



Front row: Nick, Cee-Asia, and Astrid
Back row: Kelsi, Lacey, Mr. Roland, and Ms. Diane



A Guide to Holy Week

Thorns take the shape of a crown. Popular acclaim turns to public execution. Sorrow and love flow mingled down. Life ends and begins. Holy Week tells a powerful story of change, a story that continues to change the world, and to change people's lives.

It's possible to fast-forward to the great celebration of Easter and hear only the story of joy that came on that resurrection morning. But the impact, indeed the change, will be deeper and more powerful if you walk with us through these holy days. Begin with the power of the Passion story on Palm Sunday. Witness the light seemingly begin to fade at the service of Tenebrae. Join the disciples gathered for the last supper on Maundy Thursday and discover something about what it means to serve. Answer for yourself what is "good" about Good Friday. Experience the profound shift from dark to light at the Great Vigil on Easter Eve. Catch the first rays of hope on Easter Day.

We offer the following annotated guide to this week as a way to encourage you to find your own path through these important days. As Trinity continues to grow, we are seeking new ways to observe these meaningful days, new ways to get in touch with the themes of death and life, sorrow and joy, hope and resurrection.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we hope you will feel welcome to take advantage of the opportunities to explore faith and reflect upon the meaning of Christ's life, death and resurrection. There is no one simple, or authorized, meaning to the suffering and death of Jesus. But there is a depth most of us have not begun to plumb.

Make time to enter deeply into a service, or two or three, this week. You may find more than you can ask for or imagine.

Thank you to our friends at St. Bartholomew's Church, NYC, for help with this guide to Holy Week & Easter.



Palm Sunday, April 1 Sunday of the Passion

8 AM Holy Eucharist and Reading of the Passion.

10 AM Liturgy of the Palms with Reading of the Passion Drama and Sung Eucharist.

A day marked by a kind of spiritual whiplash. We begin with Robert Dudley singing "The Palms" as a triumphant prelude, followed by the great festivity of the procession, and then the mood shifting quickly as we tell the story of Jesus' journey to Calvary. The music reflects this dramatic change by beginning joyfully and with great extroversion, and dropping in volume and becoming more introspective during the course of the service. Rector preaching.



Nursery available



Monday, April 2 Tuesday, April 3 Wednesday, April 4

As we begin our walk to calvary, each of these days comes with its own focus.

Monday

7 PM Eucharist.

Our attention is drawn to the story of the woman who anointed Jesus before his death. The Rev. Bill Forbes preaching.

Tuesday

7 PM Eucharist.

We explore with St. Paul the mystery of the power of the cross. The Rev. Tom Pivinski preaching.

Wednesday

7 PM Tenebrae.

Tenebrae means "shadows" or "darkness." That is a perfect title for a service that prepares us so well, in heart, mind, even in body, for the three days when the Light seemed to fade. It is a haunting service of readings of Scripture and psalms chanted by our Choristers. The most conspicuous feature of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles and other lights in the church until only a single candle, considered a symbol of Christ, remains. Toward the end of the service this candle is hidden, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil. At the very end, a loud noise is made, symbolizing the earthquake at the time of the crucifixion as told in Matthew's Gospel. The hidden candle is restored to its place and by its light all depart in silence.



Maundy Thursday, April 5

7 PM Holy Eucharist with Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar.

The word "maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum* which means "command." We follow Jesus' example of what it means to be a servant through the ritual of foot washing. The music reflects our sense of community, using the historic text *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est*: Where there is charity and love, God is also there. The Rev. Tom Conway will preach. At the close of this service, the reserved sacrament is carried out during the singing of Hymn 329 "Now, my tongue, the mystery telling." Psalm 22 is then chanted while the altar is stripped. The music sets us up to wait: the all-night watch begins.

9 PM - 6 AM All-Night Watch.

Spend time in the Chapel in quiet, in prayer, in watchfulness. (In addition to those who sign up, security will be present throughout.). Sign up in the back of the church or by calling the parish office at 732-775-5084.



Good Friday, April 6

Noonday Service.

A service of readings, prayers and reflections on the stations of the cross. Deacon Gail preaching.

7 PM The Good Friday Liturgy.

Good Friday is a continuation of the service from the night before. It is the middle of the Triduum, (Three Days). The service focuses on the saving power of the cross, including the Passion according to St. John and the solemn collects, concluding with communion from the reserved sacrament. The music at this service is traditionally a cappella – unaccompanied – and in distinct contrast to the night before, seeking to help us focus on the meaning of Christ's passion. The service concludes in silence. A distinct aspect of the service at Trinity is a devotional reverence of the cross. People are invited to come forward to touch the cross. Deacon Gail Bennett preaching.

Confessions: The Rite of Reconciliation.

Our priest (rector) will be available for The Reconciliation of a Penitent (Book of Common Prayer, p. 447–51), also known as private confession. Contact Father David to set up a time to meet during the day.



Holy Saturday, April 7

10 AM Liturgy of the Word.

A brief, simple service of prayers and readings reflecting on Jesus in the tomb.

10:15 AM Holy Labor for a Holy Time.

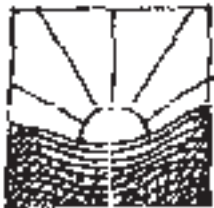
After the service, stay for a bit to help decorate and spruce up the church for Easter!

7 PM The Great Vigil of Easter.

Drawn from ancient sources, this is the most dramatic liturgy of the year. The progression of themes and moods played out on Palm Sunday are reversed. We'll begin by hearing the timeless prophecies of hope. We move from darkness to light, first by candlelight. We sing the first "alleluia" of Easter. The church is flooded with light as the Eucharist is celebrated. Don't forget to bring a bell (and one to share if you have an extra) to ring out Good News at the pronouncement of Christ's resurrection. The Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg preaching.



Nursery available



Easter Day, Sunday, April 8

8 AM Holy Eucharist (said).

A simple, festive celebration in the Church.

10 AM Festival Sung Eucharist.

Trinity Choir singing music to uplift the soul. Easter anthems and favorite hymns for congregation and choir enriched and augmented by a Brass Quintet and timpani. The choir will sing the Mass setting, "Sewanee Service", by Malcolm Archer. Anthem by contemporary British composer David Ogden. Rector preaching. Childcare from 9:45 am on. Come early, bring a friend, share the joy!



Nursery available

Easter Egg Hunt.

After the service, children will be invited to join in an Easter egg hunt (weather permitting) around the outside of the church.

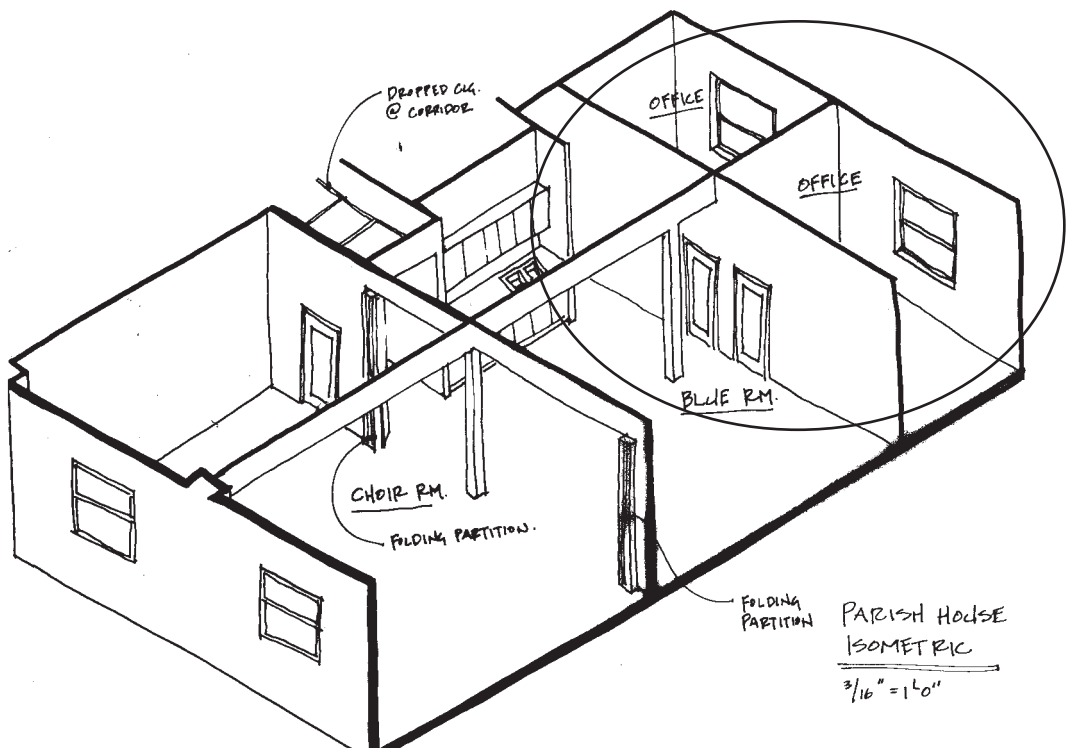
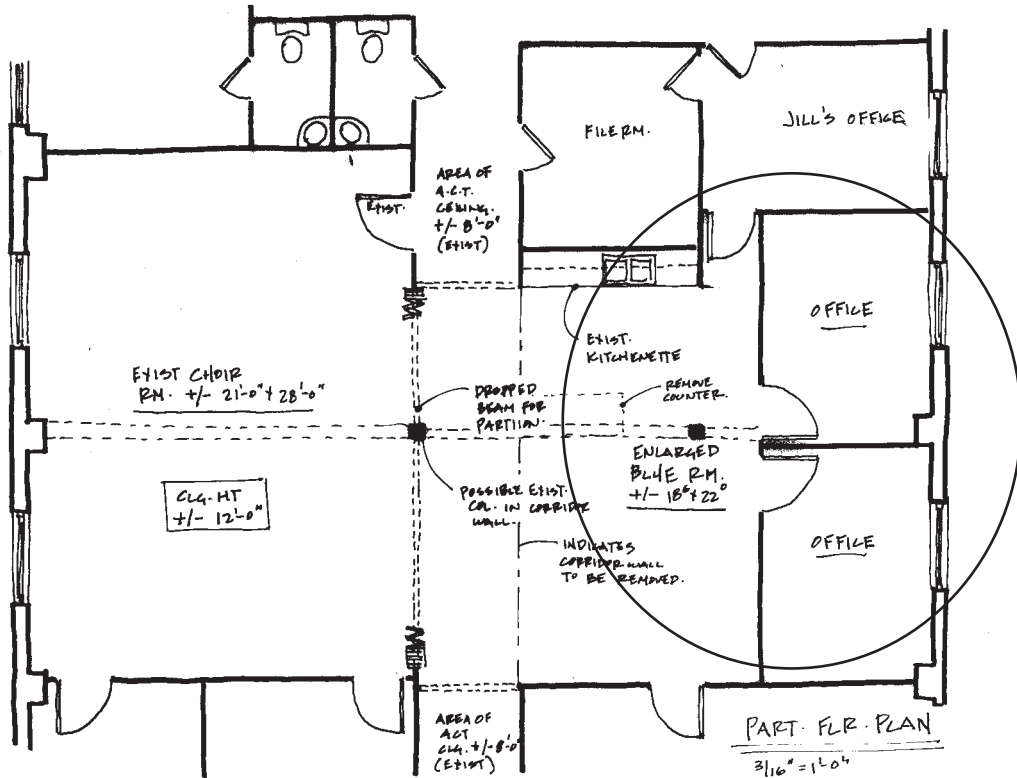




Renovations to the Parish Office Wing have begun.

We are incredibly grateful to the Henderik's family donating the funds for this project! Walls for the rector's office will begin this week. Thank you to Bryan McCarthy who has been overseeing this project and to the many parishioners who helped with demolition. The change have caused us to pause and ask if there needs to be a Phase 2, which would be to incorporate the hallway into the now much smaller Blue Room space. An additional option would be also place some type of pocket doors into the choir room, which would then allow for the space to be opened up for larger gatherings when needed, such as for the Women's Night Out. Of course this quickly leads to a discussion about the need for a different bathroom configuration. Rest assured nothing will be done beyond that which we have already agreed (construction of new offices) without the congregation's

input. If and when needed, we'll provide a Sunday forum to hear and discuss additional options. Right now, just allow yourself to live with the space, think about how we are using it now, and how might it better serve our needs in doing church at this time in our parish's life. Below is architect and parishioner, Steve Tietke's rendition of a possible Phase two. Thank you Steve for this.



BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday nights • 7:10 - 8 PM
Following our Eucharist at 6:30 PM

April 11, Led by Rick Shanley.

Scripture: John 20:19-31, Jesus is in the upper room and says to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

April 18, Led by Tom Pivinski.

Scripture: John 21:1-19, Jesus saying to Peter, "Feed my lambs."

April 25, Led by Joanie McCoy.

Scripture: John 10:22-30: Jesus is teaching in the temple and says, "What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Walk to Help Find a Cure for Multiple Sclerosis • April 22

Submitted by Marie Cooper

Multiple Sclerosis is a chronic, incurable neurological disease that attacks the central nervous system. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society sponsors an annual walk to raise money for research to end the devastating effects of this disease. Parishioner Marie Cooper, who has MS, would love for you to join her team and walk in Belmar on Sunday, April 22 at 10 AM.

If you are interested, would like further details or would like to make a pledge, please contact Marie at 732-774-0446 or at mlcooper@optonline.net

Thank you for the New Robes

A huge thank you to those of you who gave towards the purchase of new robes for our growing acolyte program and growing acolytes!

Thank you for the Soup and Service

To our soup and salad angels who provide the meal and to those who helped set-up and those who stayed and helped clean-up for our Lenten Study program held here March 7th. What a great night. About 100 people attended this first night of our joint lenten program with St. James' Bradley Beach, St. Augustine's, Asbury Park, and Redeemer Lutheran, Neptune.

Easter Week and the Parish Office

The parish office will be on reduced hours the week after Easter. As always, in case of a pastoral emergency and you cannot reach someone at the parish office, call the rectory: 732-774-0907.

Trinity Welcomes New Ecumenical Assisting Minister

From the rector

We are graced at Trinity by having three simply excellent clergy on staff: Deacon Gail Bennett, Father Tom Conway and Mother Mary Frances Schjonberg. All of them give of themselves so generously to the parish and all do so on a volunteer basis. Well, all I can say is God is definitely good, because we are adding to this great clergy staff in welcoming the Rev. Bill Forbes.



Bill and his wife, Patty, have been worshipping with us for the past year and a half. Bill is an ordained Presbyterian minister and is the Vice President of Church Relations and Corporate Secretary for the Board of Pensions, of the Presbyterian Church (USA). He has served as a pastor of several congregations. Prior to coming to the Board of Pensions he was for thirteen years the senior pastor of a 2,000 member congregation in Westfield, NJ. He and his wife Patty, a life-long Episcopalian, have a weekend home in Ocean Grove. Both have fallen in love with our congregation and have made it their spiritual home in living out their own baptismal promises. Bill has graciously offered to volunteer his time and talents at Trinity, specifically in the area of leading Adult Forums from time to time and also in helping in the area of stewardship. The bishop has given permission for Bill to be our Assisting Ecumenical Priest. We welcome him with open arms.

A little more about Bill: He was raised in New Jersey. He attended Kansas Wesleyan University where he received his B.A. cum laude in 1968. He is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary (M. Div. 1972) and the Graduate Theological Foundation (D. Min. 1988).

Bill was ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament in June of 1972. He has served First Presbyterian Church as assistant pastor in Princeton, NJ (1972-74); First Presbyterian Church as associate pastor in Atlanta, GA (1980-82); St. Philip Presbyterian Church as senior pastor in Houston, TX (1982-89); and the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, NJ as senior pastor (1989-2002). Previously, he served on the national staffs of the former United Presbyterian Church USA and the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (1974-80). He was elected vice president, church relations and corporate secretary for the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in the fall of 2002. He has been a member of the Presbytery of Elizabeth since 1989.

Throughout his career he has been active in General Assembly activities. He has participated in every meeting of the General Assembly since 1974. He has been the moderator of two presbyteries; the moderator of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly; and a delegate for six years to the North American and Caribbean Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. Bill has traveled extensively throughout North America, the Caribbean, Europe and Africa on behalf of the church.

Bill's wife, Patty, has been on the faculty of Montclair-Kimberley Academy since 1989. They have three children, Kristy, a pastor in St. Louis; Ross, an attorney in Dallas; and Philip, a college student. They make their home in Westfield, NJ and Ocean Grove, NJ.

The Episcopal Church

The General Convention (governing body) of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America consists of the House of Deputies, comprising elected clergy and lay deputies from each diocese of the church and presided over by a president, who can be either a priest or a lay person; and the House of Bishops, comprising all bishops of the church, is presided over by the presiding bishop. General Convention is held every three years. In between meetings, the Executive Council has the duty to carry out programs and policies adopted by General Convention. The Executive Council is comprised of twenty members elected by General Convention (four bishops, four priests or deacons and twelve laypersons) and eighteen members elected by provincial synods. It is the job of Executive Council to oversee the ministry and mission of the Church.

The House of Bishops meet at various times throughout the year, most recently this past week at Camp Allen in Texas for discussion, reflection and prayer. The meeting took on particular focus in light of the recent Primates' Communiqué. Primates are the leaders of the churches in the Anglican Communion. The Communiqué spoke to issues of human sexuality. Below is our Presiding Bishop's homily at the closing Eucharist at this meeting of the House of Bishops.

Homily for Closing Eucharist, House of Bishops' Meeting • The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Camp Allen, Texas, March 21, 2007. On the Feast Day of Thomas Ken

I look around here and see lots of folks with glasses. And some of us who don't obviously wear them have contacts or have had our eyes adjusted surgically. Most of us have had our eyes change over the years.

When I first learned to fly, my vision tested as 20/10 in one eye and 20/15 in the other. I could see farther and more accurately at a distance than the norm. But in the last few years I've been wrestling with the changes 35 years have made in my eyes. I can see just fine up close - to read or have an intimate conversation - but I can no longer see the nuance of emotion on a face at 50 feet. I have to use other lenses to do that, and it can be both frustrating and annoying. That shift in focus doesn't happen automatically anymore - it takes conscious effort, and outside assistance.

In some ways I think our church has presbyopia as well. I don't just mean "old eyes," which we certainly need if we're serious about valuing our tradition. Our tired and aging eyes mean that we don't have the ability to rapidly change focus, to look both back and forward, near and far away, in the space of a few instants. Our eyes have grown accustomed either to looking at the world over our shoulder, or toward the future, and we've lost some of our Anglican ability to look in both directions, to hold both perspectives in tension.

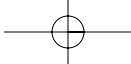
Our current struggle gives evidence of a competition between perspectives or worldviews. One of them looks at the world through an Enlightenment lens and expects to see predictability, understandability, and definability. Another view of the world comes through a postmodern lens, one that sees constant change and a significant degree of unpredictability as intrinsic to creation. Those two worldviews seem to many people to be incapable of being used together or even held in tension. To many people, they feel fundamentally distinct and irreconcilable. The two worldviews may also lead to different understandings of our lives as Christians, but before we go there let's consider what a Godly worldview might look like.

Recall Rublev's great icon of the Trinity, and the way in which each of the members of the Trinity looks in a different direction. They are not gazing out into space, however, but at another being, at another of those present around the circle. If we are created in the image of that social God, we too are invited to look as God does, toward another image of God, to turn our eyes upon Jesus - and also on the many images of God all around us.

The ability and willingness to focus on those many images of God around us is fundamental to our lives as Christians. God has the ability to hold all of us together in one field of view, affirming each one as child and beloved. Our baptism into the life of God is about seeing as God sees, with integrity.

We're celebrating the feast of Thomas Ken today. His biography in *Lesser Feasts and Fasts* begins like this: "Thomas Ken was born in 1637. Throughout his life he was both rewarded and punished for his integrity." The examples cited are about his persistence in advocating a particular and centered moral position wherever he looked, even in the face of potential or real royal wrath. There may be some parallel with our current situation in this church. Thomas Ken was not loath to publicly rebuke his king or to refuse a royal order. He understood that a personal oath made to one king was not transferable to another, which cost him his post as Bishop of Bath and Wells. And despite his trials ecclesiastical and political, Thomas Ken kept on singing. He was able to bless even that which the world thought of as wretched, demeaning, and hopeless.

Integrity means soundness and wholeness, being undivided. It implies that ability to look in more than one direction, or to focus on more than one object, yet see only oneness. It is a Godly view of things.



That Godly view of things underlies the apparently different worldviews of today's gospel. The story is set in the midst of a crowd, all of whom are seeking healing, trying to touch Jesus, looking for hope and help. And then it says, "Jesus looked up" at his disciples. He looks up from the crowd around him, sees that motley crew of misfits and begins to pronounce blessing. He sets together ailing crowd and failing disciples, poverty and blessing, hunger

and blessing, grief and blessing, persecution and blessing, hate and joy. How can he look at the abject absence of abundance in the midst of that crowd and find hope, joy, and blessing?

That divine vision sees beneath the surface, beyond what the world sees as loss or death or rejection. That vision of blessing sees the fundamentally gracious nature of reality, it sees the ground of loving being that continues to arc toward justice in spite of the emptiness or evil of the world's current reality. To envision poverty as blessedness sees potential, sees the fulfillment - the filling full of empty bellies and sightless eyes - that God expects and hopes for and encourages this world to make real. Seeing the blessing comes from the ability to see both lack and possibility in a kind of multilayered reality. That multiple reality is present - the kingdom of God is all around you - but it takes eyes that can see at multiple focal lengths.

It is the same kind of seeing that has begun to understand light and all electromagnetic radiation as both particle and wave. There are occasions when it makes more sense to treat light as a wave, and other times when using particle physics is more fruitful. Both are accurate, neither is sufficient.

The MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) are about that kind of multifocal vision. They announce prophetic judgment on the world's need, but they also announce prophetic possibility - yes, the hungry can be filled, and the ill healed, and the rejected restored to community.

Living in community also requires multifocal lenses, and we've had some small experience here in doing that. We've looked beyond ourselves to the Anglican Communion, and internally toward our varied members. We are trying to see with others' perspectives, and sometimes it can be both painful and annoying. We don't see as clearly or easily when we gaze on unfamiliar depths, when we are invited to hold together both Radner and Grieb, both unchanging truth and continuing revelation.

There are some kinds of fish and other aquatic animals that actually have bipartite eyes - they see at the same time both above and below the surface of the water, and their brains figure out how to interpret those quite different images and make a coherent whole. As a body, we are wrestling with a collection of images - perhaps even more like the eye of a social insect, with multiple facets - but most of us assume that the image we form most easily is the only right and true one. The blesser of the gospel, however, sees more than that one, easy image. The blesser of all invites us into that deeper seeing as well - stretch, strain, imagine, and you, too, can begin to see like the Three do, like the One does.

When we have seen that blessing, however briefly, it begins to rise into more easily visible depths, it comes more clearly into focus and into what we call "normal reality." To see as God sees is to begin to make real, whether it is the work of the MDGs, the work going on now in Louisiana and Mississippi, caring for the homecoming soldier, or liberating those in chains. To see as God sees is to bless what is into the reality of the God's reign.

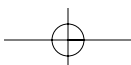
One of the curiosities of very small particle physics is that measuring the position or speed of a particle changes it. Seeing the particle changes it to something else or somewhere else. Seeing with the eyes of God, or blessing another, changes or moves both the blessed and the blesser.

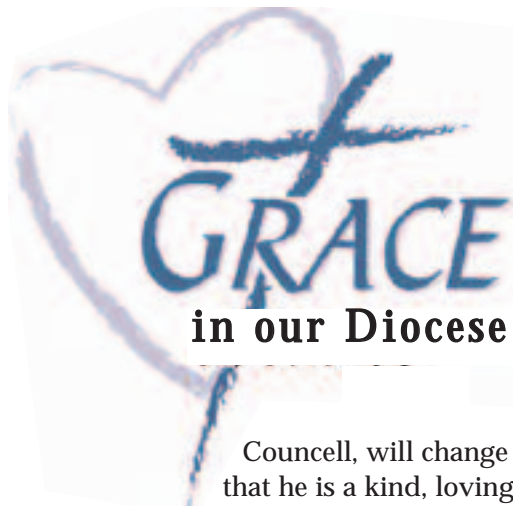
Thomas Ken sang praises to the God of blessing. May we bless with the eyes of God, bless the world into greater reality, more closely into the reign of God.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
 Praise God all creatures here below
 Praise God above, ye heavenly host
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

New Trinity Website • Sneak Peek for Trinity's Members and Friends

We are testing a new version of our parish website. It is available for you to view by going to: www.TrinityNJ.com/test. If it downloads without glitches, it should go live in the next couple weeks. Please make sure you click on the button on the front page to view the Video Greeting. This is a short video clip with Fr. David talking a bit about Trinity, directed at those also seeking a spiritual home. The video has pictures of our parish life over the past year. If you see a picture of you that you would prefer to have removed, contact the rector immediately.





A "Special Edition" of reflections on moments of Grace. The following are from parishioners who were delegates to our diocesan convention, March 2nd & 3rd. We thank Howard, Dwight, and Susan for giving of their time and representing their parish family.

By Howard Smith

Thank you for electing me as your delegate to the 223rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey. It gave me an opportunity to know more about our Diocese. Prior to going to and during the convention, I heard unfavorable things about our previous bishop. I believe that this Bishop, Rt. Rev. George

Councill, will change all of that and I look forward to great things occurring in this Diocese. I believe that he is a kind, loving, caring person who believes that our church should be all inclusive – that all are welcome to worship with us.

The Bishop conducted and led the convention with a firm hand but gave the people great latitude in speaking. We were never much ahead or behind schedule. We elected Diocesan officers. Being new in New Jersey and to the Diocese, I needed help in selecting candidates. I thank Fr. Tom and Deacon Gail for their help and advice. I spent most of my time, when out of session, talking to people of other churches. It gave me an idea of some of the problems of other parishes. I remember that two asked, "Oh, you're from Trinity Church, Asbury Park. What's going on there? You seem to be growing rapidly." I told them I attribute our growth to two factors: The first being that all our people in the parish welcome all visitors and strangers with open arms. Second, that our Rector at the time of announcements states that all are welcome at our table: if one has any doubt as to how to receive or any doubt about whether one should receive that he should come forward and join us at our table and then return to the church and discuss it with him.

And so, once again I wish to thank you for the privilege of representing you at the convention. Also, I want you to know that both Charlotte and I are happy to be members of the congregation of Trinity Church at Asbury Park.

By Dwight Taylor

Vibrant, reverent, inclusive, informative, traditional, futuristic and plain fun are just some of the words which describe the 223rd Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey, March 2nd and 3rd. The Crown Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Cherry Hill, NJ provided the venue for the event. I had the honor and privilege to represent our parish along with fellow delegates Susan Folta and Howard Smith. Fathers David and Tom with Deacon Gail were there to guide us along the way. The energy and love we experience everyday at Trinity was multiplied 100 fold at the convention.

Bishop Councill presided over the convention with authority, reverence and humor. Three resolutions were passed. These resolutions pertained to Restorative Justice. The report from the Visioning Committee proved to be the highlight of the convention. A CD-Rom of their report will be sent to each parish in the diocese. Information relating to the specific resolutions, amendments and reports can be found on the diocesan website <http://newjersey.anglican.org/News/>.

Delegates were elected to represent the Dioceses at the General Convention as well as serve on various diocesan committees. Fr. David was elected to the Diocesan Investment Trust Committee. Fellowship after the day long meeting afforded an opportunity to unwind and meet other attendees. During this time ideas and hopes for the betterment of the Diocese were exchanged. We all met for a delicious dinner and entertainment that evening.

Many glorious things were happening at the convention. There were numerous exhibits to view. They ranged from alcohol and drug recovery to spiritual retreats and many outreach ministries. Attendees were very open and wanted to know what we had at Trinity to draw so many people to our parish. Seeing so many people from parishes throughout the Diocese gathered together to praise God and receive His guidance to help us make our Diocese one of the best in the country was a wonderful thing to witness.

Each and every member of the Trinity family should take the opportunity to attend a Diocesan Convention. It was one of the most enlightening experiences I have ever had.

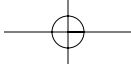
By Susan Folta

As I packed for the convention a few weeks ago, I wondered if I was a bit crazy to want to go. Then, after I picked up Kelsi and we were on our way, everything was going well until we got so close and so lost. (Thanks, Mapquest!)

We arrived just as the Eucharist Service was beginning. Of course, all the empty chairs were in five or six people on each side. I made eye contact with a couple of ladies and they moved over. It was getting better. It truly was. The music was wonderful. The readers were wonderful. And, Bishop Councill's homily bold, comforting and genuine.

The business sessions began and we had the best view of the officials. Our group, consisting of Father David, Father Tom, Deacon Gail, Dwight Taylor, Howard Smith and I were in the front row. (Don't worry, we behaved.)

continued on next page



We listened and participated as the work of the convention continued. The keynote speaker, David Beckman, President of Bread for the World, moved us beyond comprehension with his address about the severe poverty and accompanying prostitution and poverty that plague areas in Africa he recently traveled. Of course I signed up to receive the congregational information kit.

Later, we saw a film in process made by a seminarian whose family, many generations back, had been involved in slave trade. The movie was particularly interesting to me because some things never change: greed and political corruption.

In the evening, we enjoyed a presentation of Mexican and South American dances after dinner. I think we needed that.

Saturday morning, Deacon Gail and I attended the Women's Breakfast and heard about the serious problems caused to Palestinian Christians by the Jerusalem Wall. The wall has divided families and made passage very difficult. Later in the morning at the business sessions, we heard reports, voted on two resolutions and shopped at the vendor stands.

There is so much pain in the world and I know each of us has pain in our lives. I also know that the Lord has led us to help in many ways. We find the strength we need here at Trinity. I am honored to have been chosen to attend the convention.



Sundays, 11:35 AM - 12:15 PM

April 15th

Coping with a Crisis: A Dialogue with Bill & Patty Forbes

The Rev. Bill and Patty Forbes have become members of our parish. We recently welcomed Bill to our clergy staff as our Assisting Ecumenical Priest, as he is an ordained Presbyterian minister. Come hear a little about Bill and Patty's journey and how they have coped emotionally and spiritually with the challenges of health crisis in their lives and the lives of their family.

April 22nd

Anglican Communion 101.

There has been much talk about the Episcopal Church and its connection to the wider Anglican Communion in the press over the past several months, brought about by the Primates' Communique on issues of human sexuality. Many of us, particularly those of us who are new to Trinity and the Episcopal way of living out the Christian faith, are struggling to catch up in learning how our relationship with the other churches in the Communion works. The Reverend Canon Samuel VanCulin will be our guest speaker. He will lead a discussion on some of the basics of the Anglican Communion. Canon VanCulin was, at one time, the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion.

April 29th & May 6th

Our Places of Worship.

A two session gathering on the architecture of houses of worship in the Christian tradition, including Trinity

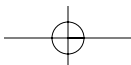
Session 1: Church Architecture for the last 2000 years. (April 29)

Session 2: Why does Trinity look like it does? (May 6th)

Both sessions will be led by parishioner Kim Byham.

Opera Night Out Wednesday, April 25th

Building on our successful Sunday Brunch Out to Sister Sue's Restaurant in March, parishioners and their friends are invited to enjoy an Opera Night at Posillipo's Italian Restaurant in Asbury Park. Because sitting is limited, sign up in the back of the church, choosing the table you wish to reserve. You are responsible for your own bill. Reservations will be made for 6:30 PM. To see a copy of Posillipo's menu go to their website at: www.posilliporestaurant.com/ As this one of their most popular nights, make sure you reserve your table asap. If you need to cancel your reservation, do so by contacting the restaurant directly. We will do another Sunday Brunch Out in May.





Trinity Church

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 The Rev. Gail Bennett, Deacon, DeaconGail@TrinityNJ.com
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Worship at Trinity

Sundays:

- 8 AM Holy Eucharist in the Chapel
Simple, traditional service
- 10 AM Holy Eucharist in the Church
Joyous music and preaching that relates the Gospel to
today's questions, with nursery/childcare and story-time.
- 11 AM Sunday School for Juniors (K-3rd)
- 11:10 AM Sunday School for Middlers (4th-7th) & Seniors (8th-12th)
- 11:35 AM Adult Forum & Supervised Open Gym for Youth
- 4:30 PM Evensong (next one May 20th)

✝ Worship is at
the heart of all
we do and are.

Wednesdays:

- 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist in the Round. Bible Study follows (7:10-8 PM)



Saturday April 21st

5:30 till 8:00 PM

Trinity Church Great Hall

Get the spot remover! The spaghetti supper fundraiser is drawing near!

Get your tickets early, as every year has been a sell out. This year in addition to the delectable food and fabulous raffle prizes, our entertainment will be "Episcopal Idol" and we have a grand raffle of a week's stay in Aruba!

The dinner will be Saturday April 21 from 5:30 till 8:00 PM. The drawings will begin at 7:30. You need not be present to win the Aruba prize. If you are interested in being a part of the entertainment, please contact Robert Bader at aries1166@optonline.net. If you are interested in helping the event either in advance, or the day of the event, please contact Kevin Kelly at kkelly212@aol.com.

Tickets for the dinner and raffle will be on sale after Church, or from committee members. We will also be selling "friends of David" dinner tickets to give to those in need. Bring your friends as this is a wonderful community event!

Proceeds benefit the ministry and mission of Trinity, helping to keeping our doors open wide to all.