



TRINITY BELLS

DECEMBER 2008

My Dear Trinitarians,

One of my favorite wacky movies has a deranged John Lithgow shouting “Character is made at night, courage is who you are in the dark!”¹ We often talk about shining the light of truth on something, or operating in daylight or letting the sun in or other metaphors that express preference for light, but there is something to this idea of darkness being the measure of what is really real, and of who we are.

It certainly is true that often it is in the darkness that we most deeply realize who and what God really is. Part of the wonder of God’s Incarnation—of Christmas—is that no part of the story denies the pain and difficulties of every ordinary human life. The lights and glitter and parties of Christmas reflect our joy at God With Us. And yet at the same time, the story of a little new family in a borrowed room, a family that has already struggled just to get to where they are (which really isn’t very far at all, given the struggle) also reflects so much about what God is really like. God comes into the darkness and changes it. God doesn’t look down on or away from the lowliest and most basic of human struggles—paying taxes, new babies and the complexity of being married. God is there, and even the simple ordinary pains and challenges can be more bearable, and the big tragedies can be survivable. God comes in darkness, and God stays, and then there is light. It is the most basic dimension of the Christian message and hope. Think of God coming to us all in the darkness, in these darkest days of the year, as we prepare for his coming again.

With love to you in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Margo". The ink is dark and the writing is fluid and personal.

¹ An extra portion of soup and bread on Maundy Thursday for any other fans of weird science fiction who can name the movie.

I LOVE THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Dear Friends in Christ:

An old friend recently sent me the article reprinted below, which was written years ago and continues to reflect the passionate love for our Lord and the Episcopal Church that burns in the heart of many of us. I offer it to you, slightly edited, as a witness to the enduring spirit of this Church, to the sure truth that as some things change much remains the same, and in hopes that it will bring a smile to your face.

I love the Episcopal Church, and in spite of the desirability of modern ecumenism, perhaps I secretly hope that I may die in her arms. I love her not conditionally or with calculation, not with careful reservations, but freely, joyfully, wholeheartedly.

I love the stone-and-brick stateliness of her old city parishes, even when they get down at the heels because “the neighborhood has changed.” And her tatty little small-town churches, smelling faintly musty and damp, kept going somehow in the face of great challenges by devoted, self-giving souls. And her gleaming, spanking-fresh suburban churches too, whose modern architecture speaks of the unending creativity of the Spirit.

I love her high-church places with their clouds of smoke from the incense pot and their chants. And no less do I love her low-church parishes, all furniture polish and gleaming brass and memorial tablets, some still with the restrained but curiously exuberant dignity of choral Morning Prayer.

I love her Book of Common Prayer, her firm doctrine and emphasis on sound learning, her devotion to scripture and tradition, and the glorious cadences of her language. But I love too the freedom that she grants her children, her openness to the new, her breadth of humanity, her expansive love, learned at the feet of Christ.

I love the bright young families proudly ranged in their pews on Sunday morning, and the elegant elderly who have seen it all, and the sparse little congregations on weekdays whose hushed devotion to their Lord is an almost palpable

radiance. And her old priests whose eyes show the compassion taught them in a lifetime, and her young priests who are so sure that the world can be won in five years at the outside.

I love the names of her heroes—Cranmer, Hooker, Julian, Pusey, Gore, Underhill, Lewis, Seabury, Breck, DeKoven. And a hundred others, including some private ones of my own.

I love the letters to The Living Church that begin, “Dear Sir: It is high time . . .” And the solemn verbiage with which the Executive Council launches a new project, the billowing sleeves of the bishops’ rochets, and the whole mad range of possible headgear that clerics can wear. I even love the battered Prayer Books in the pew racks that are sometimes confused with Hymnals.

I love the eccentric ladies in city parishes who dress in liturgical colors. And the uproarious stories about departed dignitaries that are told whenever the clergy gather and have time for small talk.

I love the Holy Communion, and the beauty of holiness, and the hands of young and old reverently raised to receive the sacrament.

I really can’t help it. I don’t know if everybody ought to be an Episcopalian; it may be that other people feel as strongly about their Churches as I do about mine. I do know that I love the Episcopal Church and that I am sworn to her, forsaking all others.

I’m glad of it. And it isn’t denominational loyalty or sectarian spirit or party fervor or naiveté about her imperfections. It’s love.

Written originally by the Rev. James Pearson, edited by the Rev. Don Henning, and further edited by yours truly.

With every blessing for your many ministries and a refreshing summer,

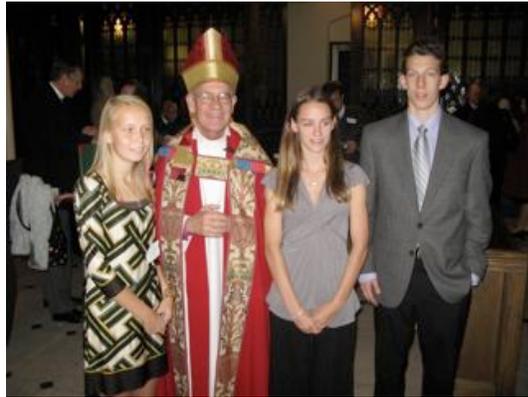
Faithfully in Christ,
The Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley Jr.

[Posted by Bryan Owen- July 7, 2008
Anglican Centrist, A Group Effort]

TRINITY MEMBERS ARE CONFIRMED

On Saturday, November 1st at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, 3 members of Trinity were confirmed and 3 Trinity members were received into the Episcopal Church.

Tess Alexander, Christina Convey and Alexander "Lex" Weill completed a 6 week preparation course with Rev. Margo and Kathy Mendall before receiving the sacrament of confirmation.



Louis and Joyce Sacripante along with Jeffrey Price were received as members into the Episcopal Church. The ceremony was lovely and very uplifting to all who attended. The Rt. Rev. Richard L. Shimpfky presided over the service. Congratulations to all!

♪ MUSICAL NOTES ♪

Our beautiful Episcopal liturgy forms a meaningful backdrop of preparation and celebration as we move through the hectic and beloved seasons of Advent and Christmas. The calm reflection and minor modes of the Advent music and the themes of the coming of the King allow us quiet reflective moments in this time of swirling bustle with too much to do. As we sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and "Once in Royal David's City", may we all share in the peace and love that is the true meaning of the Incarnation.

Special music will include an extended prelude on Christmas Eve starting at 9:40 and including solo and ensemble carols. Young instrumentalists and singers will also be featured on Christmas Eve and at the Sunday, December 21st 10:00 Lessons and Carols Service.

Martha Regelmann

CANDY FOR THE TROOPS



Karl Hansen and John Galati help to pack up over 200 pounds of leftover Halloween candy to send to our troops in Afghanistan. Thanks to all who donated!



TRINITY TRANSITIONS

Rest Eternal Grant Unto Them. . .
Allen McConnell

PROPERTY AND GROUNDS

It's been a busy autumn for our real property. As all of you know, a highly professional crew removed the old lexan from 60% of the stained glass. New, better-engineered protective coverings were installed and everything looks wonderful. The remaining 40% of the work will be completed in April 2009.

We have begun to weather proof the property to enhance our comfort and save energy costs. Weather stripping and a first course of storm windows are being installed.

The church boiler has a new jacket. Bids of approximately \$25,000 have been received to replace our fuel oil tanks. This work will take place after the current heating season. We have bids to replace boilers to significantly increase efficiency. The total \$102,000 and will be under consideration for future implementation.

Brother Debruin came up with a brilliant solution for the sinking floor in the church proper. He has had engineering and construction drawings completed and is preparing to bid the project. It is hoped that conservancy funds can be obtained to fund this project. Next year in Jerusalem!

Lastly, we have finally found a reliable contractor to do the renovation on the rectory master bathroom. Hopefully, we'll complete the work before the end of the year and promote Margo into the 21st century with a flushing toilet and running water.

Rennie Archibald

BURNING BOOKS



The Burning Books group will meet on Wed., December 10th, 7:30 pm at Trinity. The host for the evening will be Rhonda Veros. The selection is Nancy Horan's Loving Frank, a fictionalized account of the life of Frank Lloyd Wright. All are welcome to attend!

PLATT WEDDING

On September 27, 2008, our daughter Sarah and Alan Finger were married at the Old Field Vineyards in Southold, New York. Sarah and her husband are both yoga teachers, and their ceremony, officiated by a non-denominational minister, included yoga teachings and chantings, music provided by a group of Indian musicians, a Chinese red ribbon ceremony, a colorfully decorated Jewish chuppa, and readings and poems from friends and family. When rainy weather caused the ceremony, originally planned for the waterfront, to be moved under the tent, the florist and the caterer created a beautiful little sanctuary radiant with sunset colors and candlelight. And then, just as the couple was about to say their vows, a rainbow appeared over the water. We couldn't help but feel blessed! Sarah and Alan live in Manhattan and own and operate a yoga studio called "Ishta Yoga" located on East 11th Street.

Sheila and John Platt



WHAT IS A CHARITABLE TRUST?

Tony Joseponis recently made a loving gift to Trinity Church. For those interested in making significant gifts to Trinity Church, a charitable trust like the one established by Tony should be considered. A charitable trust is a trust established for the dual purpose of donating to charity and providing for a noncharitable beneficiary (such as you, your spouse or your children).

In a charitable trust, one party (usually the noncharitable beneficiary) receives the first or lead interest in the trust property, and the second party (Trinity) receives the remainder or second-in-line interest. What this means is that for a period of years or for life, the first party receives an income stream from the donated trust property in the form of annual payments, and thereafter the second party receives the remaining property in a lump sum.

In the charitable trust arrangement, the charity's right to enjoyment and possession of the gift is either delayed (when the noncharitable beneficiary has the first interest in the donated property) or limited by a period of years (when the charity has the first interest in the donated property). Ordinarily, this would mean no tax deductibility for your gift due to the general rule that a gift to charity must be immediate and unconditional in order for it to be deductible for income tax purposes.

However, Congress has approved the tax deductibility of split-interest gifts to charity, as long as they are implemented as one of a number of special trusts created by Congress for this purpose. If you comply with all the requirements of such charitable trusts, you will receive federal income, gift and estate tax benefits.

Tom Cammisa

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Outreach will be holding a Christmas Boutique on Dec. 7 and Dec. 14. Various new items and good-quality white elephant donations are needed. A box will be available at the rear of the church for donations.



The Smithers children getting ready to ring the bells after the 10:00 service on November 30th: Addie, Nicholas, Brinkley & Christopher

TRINITY TAG SALE

Looking ahead, we will also once again be having a Tag Sale in the spring of 2009. It will continue to be the source of some much needed things in this difficult economy, as we are well known for our good quality, but low cost, items. It is not too early to start bringing things to the storage room which is above the Fireplace Room. Please remember to label sizes, wash items that are dusty, tie, safety pin or rubber band together shoes, placemats, pjs etc. Tape instructions on appliances. We need clothing and accessories, shoes, linens, curtains, house wares (wrap breakables), toys, games, tools, working radios, small appliances and small furniture. Ask your family, friends & neighbors to contribute, too! I would greatly appreciate having some co-chairs to help with the various aspects of this.

Barbara Holzkamp
671-6827 or bjswimmer@hotmail.com

<p>Kathleen A. Koch Licensed Sales Associate</p>  <p>RICHARD B. ARNOLD REAL ESTATE</p> <p><i>The right team for the right move</i></p> <p>329 Glen Cove Ave., Sea Cliff, NY 11579 516-671-8800 Fax: 516-671-8871 Cell: 516-286-6902 kathy@richardbarnold.com www.richardbarnold.com</p>	 <p>Holistic Health Counselor Kripalu Yoga Teacher</p> <p>Mary Lou Minard (516) 482-6943 . MaryLouMinard@aol.com www.marylouminard.com</p>
 <p>BBM Computers Computer Sales & Service Home & Office Networks</p> <p><i>Our Service Is Our Salesman</i></p> <p>252 Sea Cliff Avenue P.O. Box 9 Sea Cliff, NY 11579 Tel: 516-674-6084 Fax: 516-674-6085</p> <p>Richard T. Boehm richb@bbmcomputers.com</p>	<p><i>Your ad could be here!</i></p> <p>The cost for a business-card ad is \$150 for one year (4 issues). For a slightly larger ad, the cost is \$200 per year (also 4 issues).</p>



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DATES:

- Sun., December 14-** “Don’t Know Much About the Bible” (Christmas edition) with Margo after 10:00 service – All ages welcome.
- Sun., December 21-** Lessons and Carols- (one service at 10:00) Light lunch to follow- All welcome!
- Wed., December 24- Christmas Eve-** Two services at 4:00 & 10:00 (musical prelude at 9:40)
- Thurs., December 25- Christmas Day-** One service at 9:30
- Sun., December 28-** Margo away (supply priest to fill in)

*David & Codge Whitting,
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The Mission Statement of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Church is a community where all are welcome. We seek to love God, to learn and practice Jesus' teachings, and to answer the call of those in need.

Sunday Services

10:00 Eucharist with Choir every Sunday
8:00 & 10:00 Eucharist- 1st Sunday of month

The Rev. Margaret A. Peckham Clark,
Rector
(516) 621-7925

www.trinityroslyn.org

Joan Murphy, Administrative Assistant
Martha Regelman, Organist and Choir Director
Michael Callahan, Sexton

Wardens

Rob Alexander
Barbara Holzkamp

Warden Emeritus

Jim Hebron

Vestry

Maryellen Hansen	Brigitte McConnell
Roger Gerber	Ruth Fick
Michael Rodriguez	Dawn Weill
Ruth Hinrichs	Donald Kavanagh
Ariann Forella	

Trinity Episcopal Church

1579 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, NY 11576

Please call the church office (621-7925) if you would like to be removed from our mailing list