

TMC TIMES

Feb. 2017 • 2212 Spruce Street • Philadelphia, PA 19103 • 215-732-2515

Lenten Program “What wondrous love; Holy Week in word and art”

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1. It is traditional for us as Episcopalians to renew our faith with intentional study and self-examination. Our program this year will be “What wondrous love,” a multi-media curriculum. At each of the six weekly meetings there will be a DVD presentation of an artistic rendering of one of the great Christian stories of the time before and after the crucifixion. Then the group will discuss the artwork and commentary by knowledgeable theologians, followed by personal discussion and insight. Enough interest was expressed at the parish forum in January to plan two opportunities for study: two tracks, same program; choose one and sign up on Sunday:

Sundays March 5-April 9, 12-1:30.

Mondays March 6-April 10, 6-7:30 with soup and bread.

Sharon and Sallie are working on a Blog site so the groups can share thoughts—www.trinityphiladelphia.wordpress.com. We have worked out a way to cover the volunteers at Cook-Off and for Vestry meetings. If you want to sign up to bring a soup on a Monday, please indicate on the sign-up sheet.



Church warms us in many ways
Photo by Judith Parker of Mia Castro-Diephouse

“Shrove Sunday” pancakes on Feb. 26

This is our Mardi Gras! The traditional meal of pancakes and sausage occurs not on Shrove Tuesday but on the Sunday prior at TMC. It is a good time of Fat Tuesday food before the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 1. Come at 11:30 and feast on sausage, pancakes, juice & applesauce before Lenten fasting! \$5.00 adults, \$3.00 children under 5. All profits (after expenses) donated to Episcopal Relief and Development.

For those who cannot come at 11:30, Sharon is making traditional hot cross buns for after the 9:00 service. Mingle with beads, decadence and good conversation!

Trinity Memorial Church

The Very Rev. Donna L. Maree,
Rector

The Rev. Lynn Czarniecki,
Deacon

Paul Kauriga,
Minister of Music

Shawn Robinson,
Administrative Assistant

Briana Melecio, Events
Manager/Coordinator

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Anthony Spicer, Custodian

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admin@trinityphiladelphia.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday: 9:00-2:00

TMC Services:

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Service for families
with small children

10:30 a.m. Service with
Eucharist

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Thursday

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

TMC on the Web:

www.trinityphiladelphia.org



Trinity Memorial Church

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Forward Thinking Task Force

The new ad hoc committee now includes Tunde Bamigboye, David Castro-Diephouse, Reggie Fuller, Petey McKnight, John Randolph, Mike Soar, and Drew Goberman. Reggie will lead the group through three focused meetings during February and then present new building use and income-producing ideas to the Vestry and congregation. We will proceed to the next steps including consultation and cooperation with TCUL.

Alms counters

Charles Carr heads up a fine dedicated group of women and men who come in every Monday morning to count, record, and deposit the weekly financial offerings. In addition to the Sunday giving this includes donations to TCUL, rental monies and fundraisers. The august group members are Jim Warden, Eric Hart, Fred Stevens, Abbie Kinzler, and Daisy Stuempfig. If you would like to help in a rotation speak to Charles.

Free Seats?

by Sallie van Merkensteijn

"All Seats Free at All Services"

Before the 1994 fire at TMC, people entering through the main door on Spruce Street saw this sign in the narthex: All Seats Free at All Services. The sign disappeared in the general clean-up after the fire, but it was discovered in the undercroft fifteen years later. Many of us remember this plaque because it is a link between our parish of yesterday and our parish today. But what does "all seats free" mean? To understand the context, we have to dig into the roots of our history. Until the late nineteenth century, it was common practice in Anglican, Catholic, and Presbyterian churches in the United States to rent pews in churches to families or individuals. In the United States, where churches lacked government support, pew rentals were an important source of income, and this practice of renting seats enforced



a sort of social status in church seating within a parish. Pew rental emerged as a source of controversy in the 1840s and 1850s, especially in the Church of England, when the High Church party adopted the slogan "Equality within the House of God" as its rallying cry. By the 1860s and 1870s, free pews became the new normal, a practice promoted by The Free and Open Church Association,

established in 1866. Many parishes, including Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, were founded at this time as "free and open churches" characterized by their lack of pew rental. (Information provided by Wikipedia.) The plaque, corroded by damp but still easily legible, reminds us of TMC's history and aspiration. The vision of those who in 1875 built the chapel which eventually became TMC is handed down to us today. We are a church of all people, no exceptions.

Donna's Trip

by Donna Maree

On February 14 I will embark with 17 other clergy on a trip to Israel with the Jewish Community Relations Council from Philadelphia. We will talk with people from all walks of life and traditions with a goal to understand some of the ways we are divided as well as some ways we can better work together. We will break bread and talk together in homes, in offices and on the trail. We will go to the Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus declared the crux of God's grace and to the Sea of Galilee where he called his first disciples. And much more. I will return for the first Sunday of Lent.



Paul Kauriga made a very impressive St. Nikolaos before Christmas

TMC Annual Meeting February 12

TMC's Annual Meeting began with Reverend Donna's State of TMC address during the service and went on as the parishioners ate a great lunch supplied by all our good cooks. Thirty people were present. Donna told of all our missions and how well they are progressing thanks largely to the support of individuals in the parish. During the meeting there was more discussion about connecting us more to our community, including events like the weenie roasts out on the sidewalk. Our use of name tags is welcomed, with thanks to Anja and Mia for making such beautiful ones. The 9:00 a.m. service continues to offer a wonderful place for parents with young children; we hope to market it better to the neighborhood to help attendance grow. The Vestry's retreat at St. Mark's Frankford led them to set new goals.

Reggie Fuller, our Treasurer, pleaded with parishioners to make their donations monthly or quarterly; 1/3 of pledges came in during the month of December, which meant that paying the bills for the earlier part of the year was dodgy and he had not thought we would end up the year solvent. The good news is that pledges are up slightly for 2017.

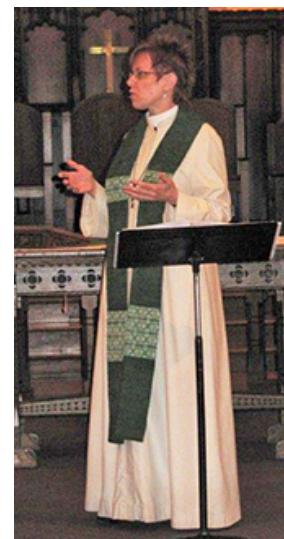
Abbie Kinzler, Fred Stevens, and Sallie



Reggie reports

van Merkenstijn were elected to the Vestry, with thanks to Ellen Kenney for her two terms. Phyllis Schnell and Judith Stevens continue as delegates to Diocesan Convention and Deanery, with Abbie as alternate.

We were dismissed by Deacon Lynn and a rousing rendition of "Lead Me, Guide Me."

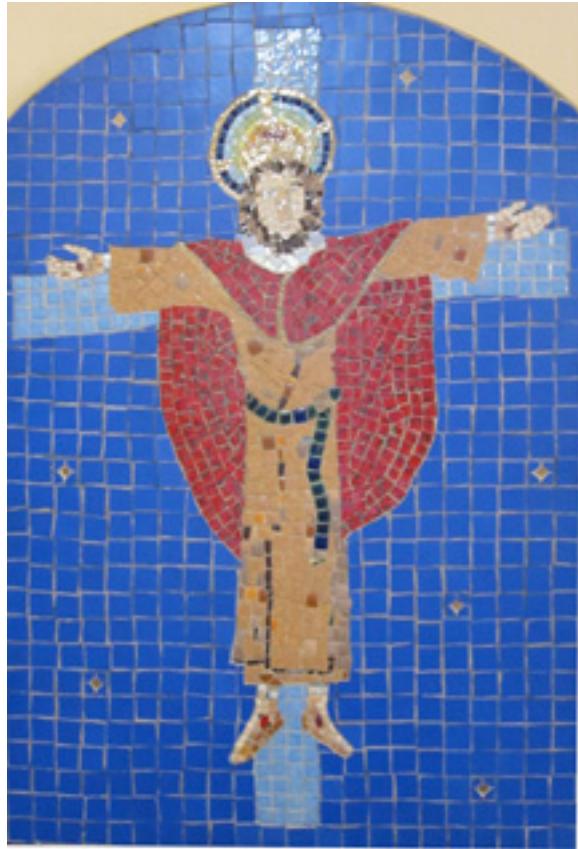


The groaning board

The Fullness of Christ

by Charles Penniman

Former Rector Cholly Penniman created this beautiful mosaic and gave it to TMC. It is on display at all parish forums and meetings to represent the full life of Jesus—as Christ the man, as Christ crucified, and as Christ risen in glory.



One of the things that I like to do is to take a common theme in liturgy, theology, design, and give it a new twist in drawings, photographs, wood carving, music...and, in this case, mosaic because of the pure brightness of this medium. This mosaic that I have given to Trinity Memorial Church is the only one I have ever done: it is a tedious medium in which to work.

The traditional “Christus Rex” design had seemed to me not very helpful (although I did carve one in mahogany) as it shows Christ as being away there in heaven and not at the same time here with us. Jesus is both here **AND** there. If he wasn’t, we’d be unable to be connected, through him,

to the Father—which is the essential connection that makes Christianity work. Thus I designed the mosaic with the risen Jesus. He is *not* on the cross. The cross is behind him and stands against a sky with seven stars showing (one for each of the seven churches in Asia to which St. John wrote the book of Revelation).

Jesus is shown with a rainbow crown of gold and a gold-trimmed royal cape rather than a priestly chasuble that would only serve to hide the fact of his working-class humanity, which is symbolized by the ordinary peasant robe under the kingly cape.

Jesus is highly and lowly, there and here, exalted and immanent: everything all at once, totally time collapsed. In fact, one thing, maybe the most important thing that Jesus did was to connect the contraries of Heaven and Earth.

These were the things I was thinking about and meditating on when I was chipping out the tesserae and sticking them in place. The work may be thought of as a sort of theological cartoon with the hope that it might raise some new thoughts or interactive questions with a variety of people, and also that it might elicit some questions that may not have occurred to me.

TMC Christmas Bazaar a Big Success

TMC treasurer Reggie Fuller announced at the parish forum in January that after the results of the Christmas Bazaar he can sleep nights because it helped balance the budget for the year. As a result of incredibly hard work by many people we made \$4553. Many thanks to all the volunteers who solicited donations for the silent auction and the raffle baskets, ordered and sold the wreaths, tied bows, baked for the bake sale, entertained the children, and did the myriad other things that made for a great day.



The Sanctuary Angels had their own table



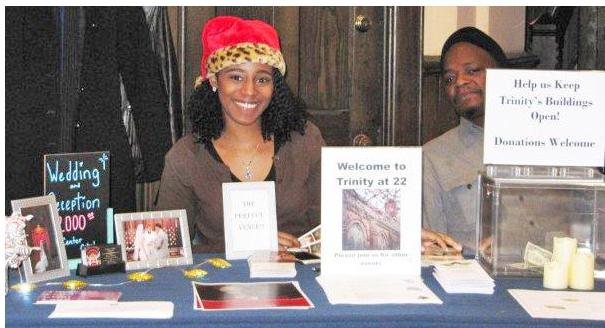
Linda, Margaret, and Abbie check out some of the offerings



Gabriel Brandstadte wasn't much interested in the Bazaar



Rachel entertained the kids



Briana & Antoine promoted TCUL

Photos by Sharon Dooley

New office procedure

By Briana Melecio

So that service requests can be done in a timely fashion, I've created a request form for members needing church information and/or services from Shawn, Antoine, and Donna. These forms can be used to request church or event information, requests for Rev. Donna and maintenance issues/repairs. To submit a request, church members can complete the form, located on the office table near the printer/copier machine and place in the designated mailbox labeled "Request Forms."



Photo by Bobby Mann

The Well

by Donna Maree

After a long day of chores, errands, and work, do you look forward to dinner and a movie to unwind? Nancy Stinson gave The Well a TV and DVD player so that at the end of a day on the streets some of the women at The Well can relax and make their world a better place in just that way. When I told them about it Miss Brenda said, "Thank God. If I have to watch the cartoon version of Moses one more time, I'll go crazy!" (they had church school supplies of a VHS nature; 2 kid movies) Thank you, Nancy.

Since opening on December 1 with 8 participants, there have been 12 women most nights (capacity). The Community meetings on Thursdays are a time to work out differences that come up while living in close quarters. I try to bring chocolate with me (a favorite treat) and let them know that we are a faithful support system outside the night hours. We are all excited to journey with two women who are likely to move into their permanent homes within this month. There are two others close to the goal and more on the way. This makes way for more women in need of that safety and warmth so desperately needed.

Thanks to the coordinating efforts of Sharon Dooley, there is enough hot food for nourishment every day. Thank you to Sallie van Merkenstijn who committed her time for a month to bring milk, o.j. and eggs each week. We now have a system whereby some of the women volunteer to keep a log of supplies, take a gift card (donated) around the corner to buy these staple items, and keep an accounting log on the other end. This is working well just two weeks in.

Thank you, parishioners, for your support and to the many churches and individuals who have contributed time, goods, money and energy.

WinterShelter Report

By Terry Hirshorn, Volunteer Coordinator

This is WinterShelter's first full year under the auspices of Episcopal Community Services (ECS). For us that means that ECS now buys our supplies and organizes fund-raising. We still manage the volunteers who cook and serve dinner every night from November 1 through April 30, and Bethesda Project still chooses our guests and supplies overnight supervisors. We continue to get new volunteers, from our website and the sign outside the church as well as word of mouth from our active volunteers. This season we have already scheduled 23 new volunteers to cook or serve at the Shelter.

Rachel Peterson, MSW, is the new Church Shelter Program Coordinator, and **Andrew Huff** is our new Church Shelter Case manager. We have several new overnight supervisors:

Darius Bowens, who works only Saturday night, has been with Bethesda since July. He was raised in Brewerytown, goes to Chestnut Hill College, majoring in Biology, and is still deciding what he wants to do when he grows up. He is currently a full-time student who said he also works full-time and plans to graduate on May 18, 2017.

Chase Smith, who works Monday and Wednesday, grew up in Ardmore and went to Agnes Irwin School. He has degrees from Boston University and an MSW from Widener University. He has been with Bethesda since November.

Lisa Pindell-Atkinson works Sunday nights. She is divorced with one 18-year-old daughter. (BTW, the daughter went to Greenfield and Science Leadership Academy and is now at West Chester U.) Lisa is a busy woman, as she is also a full-time case worker with the Department of Welfare and a bail interviewer (on call). She grew up in Wynnewood and graduated from the High School for Engineering and Science. She did her undergraduate work, majoring in Political Science, at Fisk University in Nashville (a city she loved) but married right after graduation and moved with her husband to an army base in Louisiana. When he was deployed to Bosnia, she moved back to Philadelphia and now owns a house in Cobbs Creek.

Our Guests

Every guest at the Shelter has a unique story. Juan was born and bred in Brooklyn, where he attended Erasmus High. He worked for many years as the salesman in a kosher butcher shop there. However, in 2000, when his daughter, who lived in Nazareth, PA, had a daughter of her own and asked him to move near-by to help her out, he jumped at the chance. In that new area, he got a job as a supervisor for making bifold doors, and as a fork-lift driver. Then fate moved in. In 2007 Juan was diagnosed with neck cancer. He was treated aggressively with radiation and chemo, which did lead to a remission in 2008, but has had long lasting consequences. From a life style angle, he was persuaded by a young man, whom he treated like a son, to take advantage of all those percocets his doctor prescribed but he did not need, and sell them on the street to make some extra money. Unfortunately, he was caught and arrested in 2010 and spent four years in prison. From a health angle, the cancer treatment left him blind in one eye, needing surgery in one ear, and additional problems which affect his eating (a hole in his trachea from hypobaric oxygen therapy) and face (nerve damage).

By the time Juan got out of prison, his daughter had moved to Oklahoma to be near her mother. He also moved to Oklahoma and would have stayed there, but his lawyer, who was handling his application for disability benefits, told him he had to move back to Philadelphia. The lawyer arranged for him to move into a half-way house, but when he maxed out of that benefit in January 5, 2016, he found himself homeless, and has been with Bethesda since then, still waiting for the disability benefits to work their way through bureaucratic red tape. He is so grateful for WinterShelter, where he finds a warm, welcoming environment, surrounded by friends who love to kid him about his hometown allegiances to New York teams (i.e. Giants football). With all that has happened to him, he still feels blessed to have found WinterShelter at this time in his life.

Trinity @ 22nd Calendar

February-May 2017

Sunday Services

9:00 a.m. worship together for families with small children
10:30 a.m. Traditional Episcopal Service

February

Sun. 19 Cookoff: assembling 200 frozen dinners for the needy, 12:30 p.m.
Sun. 19 Chamber Orchestra FIRST Edition, 8:00 p.m.
Fri. 24 Piffaro Concert, 7:30 p.m.
Sun. 26 Hot Cross Buns & Beads, 9:30 (after 9:00 service)
Shrove Sunday Pancake Luncheon, 11:30



March

Wed. 1 Ash Wednesday service, 6 p.m. with imposition of ashes
Sun. 5 "What Wondrous Love" Lenten program begins, 12-1:30 + 5 Sundays
Mon. 5 "What Wondrous Love" Lenten program begins, 6-7:30 + 5 Mondays
Sat. 11 Al-Bustan: Seeds of Culture Concer, 8:00 p.m.
Sat. 18 Friends of Chester Arthur Night Out: Cocktail Fundraiser, 7:00 p.m.
Sun. 19 Cookoff: assembling 200 frozen dinners for the needy, 12:30 p.m.
Tue. 21 Dolce Suono Ensemble: "Contrastes: Mozart and Latin
Music with Ricardo Morales", 7:00 p.m.
Sat. 25 Philly Comics and Cosplay EXPO, 12:00 p.m.
Fri. 31 Piffaro Concert, 7:30 p.m.

April

Sat. 8 Philadelphia Guitar Society TBD
Sun. 9 Palm Sunday: 10:15 in Rittenhouse Square; 10:45 at TMC
Thu. 13 Maundy Thursday Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
Fri. 14 Stations at the Station, Suburban Station, noon
Good Friday Liturgy, 7:00 p.m.
Sun. 16 Easter Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m.
Sun. 16 Cookoff: assembling 200 frozen dinners for the needy, 12:30 p.m.
Fri. 28 TMC Jumble Sale Preview Party, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Sat. 29 TMC Jumbo Jumble Sale, 10:00-3:00



May

Sat. 6 Al-Bustan: Seeds of Culture, 8:00 p.m.
Sun. 21 Cookoff: assembling 200 frozen dinners for the needy, 12:30 p.m.