

From the Vicar

Last week I preached a sermon about children and church, based on part of the gospel of the day, where “Jesus took a little child and put it among the twelve; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”” A couple of people have raised their concern about that sermon. They felt it painted an unnecessarily negative picture of our church, was off-putting to newcomers, and wasn’t appropriate. I’m sorry. I did not mean to cause offence. I was just trying to address an issue that had come to my attention, and that seemed to connect to the lectionary readings of the day.

Three issues came together in this situation. One is differing expectations of children’s behavior in church. One is how we communicate with one another. And one is how we deal with conflict in our church community.

Differing expectations: Many of us have differing expectations of how children should behave in church. They come from the way we were raised, our previous experiences in this and other churches, and our own needs now. I was raised going to church as well as Sunday School. Church was a safe place for me, where I was loved and always made to feel welcome. In most of the churches where I have been a member or on staff, small children (the under 3s) have been pretty much allowed to roam freely, especially in the churches that I’ve been in here in the US. The primary concern is their safety - making sure they don’t hurt themselves. Other people have the experience that children either stay in their pews or do not come in to church at all. That means that sometimes I think something is normal, and others think it’s a problem, because our experience and expectations differ.

Communication: This issue came to me via eight anonymous complaints to a warden, who then raised it at vestry. Because it was raised publicly, I felt I should address it publicly. That meant that maybe it escalated into a bigger deal than if we had been able to deal with it privately. I find it difficult as your vicar when things are said anonymously and come to me second or third hand. It’s far more helpful for people to come to me directly — I will do my best to listen. And it’s hard for me if I don’t know what people think: if someone comes to me

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Trinity Talk

the newsletter of Trinity Episcopal “Old Swedes” Church in Swedesboro, New Jersey

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and I haven't heard anything to the contrary, I'll probably say yes — and not discover until 6 months later via the grapevine that people aren't happy with it. We need to communicate with one another, to talk and to listen.

Conflict: Conflict is inevitable in any community. We can't always prevent it, but we can work together to address it so that it doesn't become destructive. Our political system is not a particularly good model for this. The way a democracy works is that whoever gets the most votes wins, and in order to garner votes, people say positive things to one another about the things or person they agree with, and often (as we've seen in recent ad campaigns) also say negative things about the things or person they disagree with. People get categorized into one group or another. Eventually one group wins, and more often than not, the other group withdraws, and may even leave.

That's not the model Scripture offers us. We're called to be agents of reconciliation, to work through our disagreements, to care for the least powerful among us, and to be models to the wider world of what love looks like. What that means is that when we have an issue with something at church, it's not helpful to go and try to talk up a group of people who agree with you, and then go en masse with a complaint to vestry. It's far more helpful to talk directly with the person who is causing you concern. And anonymous complaints are never helpful. If you have a concern, be willing to stand behind it. As our wise Junior Warden says, it's like going to a restaurant and when you get outside afterwards complaining about the food, but never saying anything to the waiter. When we communicate clearly with one another, when we choose to work together to find solutions, things look and feel a whole lot better.

This isn't just about kids in church. It's about the way we interact with one another in this place. It's about whether we will choose to be a healthy loving and tolerant community. And it can make the world of difference in how we experience this wonderful community of ours at Trinity.

Blessings, and hope to see you soon,


Vicar

Worship

Welcome Back

Vacations are over and we're back to the "regular" routine of Sunday School, church activities and events and some new programs. We hope you've enjoyed your relaxation time and are ready to join us as we move forward.

Baptism

The next ordinarily scheduled Baptism is on November 5, the Sunday after All Saints Day. Please talk with the Vicar if you have a candidate for baptism that day or would like to discuss another date.

Those people up the front in robes ...

Have you ever wanted to be one of those people up the front of church dressed up in a robe? We are looking for more people to serve as Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes and Crucifers. *Eucharistic Ministers* assist in leading our Sunday services by reading, leading the prayers of the people, and administering the chalice. To be eligible, you need to be 16 or older and confirmed. *Acolytes* carry the candles that light the gospel book, and assist in other ways as needed. You need to be 8 or older to be an acolyte. The *Crucifer* carries the cross at the front of the procession. You need to be able to carry the cross to be eligible to do this — most of our crucifers are teenagers, but adults are eligible as well. Please talk with the Vicar if you are interested in doing any of these.

?????Blessing of the Animals:

Sunday October 8 – 2 PM

October 4 is the day when traditionally the church remembers St. Francis and his love for animals and nature. We would love to celebrate by having a Blessing of the Animals service on the Sunday after St. Francis' Day, October 8, on the Parish House lawn at 2 PM. (Parish House if the weather doesn't cooperate!) All animals (or photos of them) and their people are welcome. Last year, attendance was low, so we are re-considering whether this is something our church community values. **Please contact the vicar if you would like to continue this service.**

Education

Sunday School and Youth Program Begins Again

Sunday School and our Journey to Adulthood youth program have begun on Sunday mornings from 9-9.50 AM. We offer a workshop program for kids aged 3 through 5th grade in the Parish House. Denise DePaul coordinates this – if you would be willing to teach on a regular or occasional basis, please call the office.

We will offer the Journey to Adulthood program for grades 6 through 11 from 9-9.50am on Sunday mornings. We will have two groups this year.

Grades 6-8 meet in the upper right balcony of the church, led by Nancy Gostkowski. Grades 9-11 meet in the back room of the Rectory, led by Bill Horner and Sarah Holmstrom.

Confirmation: June 10, 2007

Our bishop, George Councill, is scheduled to visit us on June 10, 2007. He is willing to confirm and receive people into the Episcopal Church.

Confirmation is for adults and older teenagers (aged 16 or over by the end of 2006/2007 school year) who wish to make an adult commitment to the vows taken on their behalf in baptism, who have not already been confirmed by a bishop. Reception is for those wishing to join the Episcopal Church from another denomination. If you wish to reaffirm your baptismal vows and have already been confirmed, we can also offer reaffirmation of baptismal vows at the same service. Please contact the Vicar if you are interested and willing to begin preparation for this.

Community

Weddings

October 21 Carol Chiaro and Mark Sibley
October 28 Nancy Gostkowski and Ray Daiutolo

For your Prayers

LCDR Brendan J. Murphy (nephew of **Jim Randall**);
Andrea Poyser (sister-in-law of **Raewynne Whiteley**)
Christine (former parish member by **Edie Rohrman**).

If you would like to list someone for prayer, please contact the church office on 467-1227 or office@trinityswedesboro.org. We will print the person's name, followed by the parishioner requesting the prayers in parentheses. In the interest of privacy, please request permission from the person before submitting his or her name. The list will be updated each month, so please update your request monthly.

Trinity Dinner Club

The Dining Club will meet again on Friday, October 27th at *Telford Inn* in Mantua. They recently have met at *Filomena's* in Deptford, *The Stone Grill* in Blackwood and *The Rushes* in Woodstown. It is open to all parishioners! If you are interested, please contact Tina Wiltsee at 423-4940 or Bob Fredd at 241-0617 for details.

What's Happening in Swedesboro?

The town of Swedesboro is experiencing a resurgence! Four new businesses have opened or are about to do so in the main street: Russo Homes (two doors up from the Rectory), Mugs Coffeehouse (next

to Russo), Needles and Pins Quilting Shop (by the Library, replacing Anthony's Hallmark) and a Mortgage Company in the former Rocco's Deli store. We rely on the support of local businesses for many of our fundraisers; we encourage you in turn to support them. And anything that attracts people into town makes it more likely that they will discover Trinity!

We've also seen many improvements in the infrastructure: a new sewer line has been installed, driveways have been replaced and the repaving of Kings Highway is complete. In addition, the sidewalk from Botto's to Swedes Inn is being re-done with pavers and adorned with lamps and landscaping.

Swedesboro Day Thanks

Thank you to all those that made Swedesboro Day such a wonderful event. It was great to see Trinity represented, and to welcome so many people.

History

Trinity "Old Swedes" Foundation

The Foundation Trustees have replaced the sidewalk in front of the church as part of the general maintenance program for the historic site. Estimates are being received to repair the brick wall at the "New" Cemetery along Third Street which will be coordinated with another Eagle Scout project.

Funds for these and other projects come from the Golf Tournament, Pig Roast and other activities during the year. Their contribution relieves the Church Budget.

Change of date: Pig Roast: Nov. 5

Trinity Church Historic Preservation Foundation will sponsor the Annual Pig Roast on Sunday, November 5th, 2006 at Rode's Fireside. Seatings are at 3:30, 4:30 and 5:30 PM. Take-outs are also available. The Menu will include Pork and Gravy, Salad, Roll & Butter, Pineapple Bake and Baked Beans, Iced Tea or Lemonade and Homemade Desserts. Proceeds from this fundraiser support the maintenance of the historic Trinity Church and site. Tickets are now available.

Outreach

Blood Drive: October 16

A Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled at Trinity Parish House on Monday, October 16th from 1 to 7 PM. Sign-up forms and notices are in the church bulletins or call Sandy Strudwick (467-0577) or the church office. Please plan to donate.

Kings Things

Located on Kings Highway at the corner of Franklin Street (across from Botto's), Kings Things is a Christian Thrift store that sells used clothing and items. Sales proceeds benefit families who are in need in the town and surrounding area. The shop is always in need of volunteers and appreciates donations of good items that you may longer need. The store was started in the 1980s by Trinity Church, Bethesda Methodist, First Presbyterian and St. Joseph's RC Church. It has continued to serve the community well through all these years. Trinity Church's representative is Felipe Grieb. He would appreciate a call at 467-6644 if you can give time and have any questions.

Manor Care

Trinity Church provides a bi-monthly church service for the residents of Manor Care in West Deptford. The next visit is scheduled for Sunday October 15th at 3pm. The service consists of singing and celebration of the Holy Eucharist. All members are encouraged to participate in this outreach project. The residents look forward to our visits and even though we are "outsiders," it is often the only company they receive. The current volunteers can not continue without your help. Please let us know if you can come along and help out; otherwise we will have to resign from this ministry.

The wider church

New Orleans Church of All Souls opens its (garage) doors in lower Ninth Ward

Friday, September 22, 2006

In a part of New Orleans that is still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Katrina, a new sign of hope has appeared.

In the midst of the Lower Ninth Ward, the Diocese of Louisiana and the Church of the Annunciation in New Orleans have launched a mission station named the Church of All Souls to minister to the many working class families who are trying to return to their homes — where some have lived for generations.

Located downriver from the Industrial Canal, the lower Ninth Ward received between four to 20 feet of floodwater following Katrina.

The Rev. Shola Falodun, an Anglican priest from Nigeria who moved to the United States to be a missionary to African Anglicans, began assisting with the relief work in the diocese immediately after the hurricane. He helped deliver supplies through the diocesan Mobile Ministry Respite Unit, a recreational

vehicle that carried necessary items to the lower Ninth Ward on a regular basis.

During that time, Falodun met the rector of the Church of the Annunciation, the Rev. Jerry Kramer, who was also carrying out a relief ministry in the Broadmoor area of the city where his church is located on South Claiborne Avenue. The two priests tended to the people's many material and spiritual needs during the early months following the storm, and have continued providing goods and services.

Through this daily contact in the Ninth Ward, Falodun knew that it was the place to which God was leading him to begin a congregation. He approached the diocese with the prospect of planting a church and received the diocese's blessing. The congregation is named the Church of All Souls and holds services on North Rampart Street just around the corner from where the Mobile Unit parks each day. Falodun chose the name to honor the new souls who will be coming to worship and those souls who were lost in Katrina's waters.



Members of the Church of All Souls in the lower Ninth Ward, New Orleans, sit on the sidewalk or lean on cars as the priest preaches from a garage, since the congregation has no church building yet. (ENS Photo by Ben Jenkins)

Kramer mentors Falodun's new ministry at All Souls under the supervision of the Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson, Canon to the Ordinary. The ministry is supported by the Bishop's Annual Mission Appeal. The diocesan Executive Board and Standing Committee are excited and supportive of the church's presence in the lower Ninth. The members of the Church of the Annunciation support the mission station through prayer, program funding and volunteer work.

The church is temporarily housed in the garage of parishioner James Lemann. Few homes are occupied

on the street. The isolation does not dampen the spirit of the fledgling community.

The Church of All Souls welcomed its first diocesan visitors from the bishop's office on September 13 at its 6 p.m. service. Stevenson brought his official greetings from Bishop Charles Jenkins of Louisiana. Stevenson was accompanied by the bishop's three-member communication team. The diocesan visitors joined the All Souls' congregation in fellowship for the barbecue dinner, prepared by Leila Green, which preceded the service.

The worship began with guitar music by Lynn Magnuson and solos offered by members of the congregation. Falodun walked through the congregation gathered on the sidewalk "blessing" them with sprays of mosquito repellent as the waning daylight brought out the uninvited insects.

A broad smile crossed Falodun's face as he welcomed the worshippers to the service and declared that "God will never fail us!" He swept his hand above the yard to take in all the items the church had at its disposal: tables, chairs, barbecue pits, food and beverages, microphones, speakers, audio-visual equipment, musical instruments, even the use of a "sno-ball" truck which makes shaved-ice treats.

"Look how much we have here after only two months," he said. "All we need to start this church is already here."

He reminded them that the reason they were here was "to be together in prayer." Falodun urged them to continue to pray for a building for them to use as a house of worship. He called on members of the congregation to share their testimonies or songs.

Falodun's sisters sang a praise song. Lemann offered "thanks to God that we are here today."

"I love to see everyone come together," he added.

Green said, "When I bless ya'll with hot food, God blesses me."

Stevenson shared his own reflection on the occasion, likening it to one of his favorite Scripture passages -- when Mary discovered from the angel that she was to give birth to the Savior.

"She knew something powerful was coming into the world," Stevenson said. "Here we are at the start of a new and powerful beginning. My soul blesses the Lord with you here tonight."

Jerome Richardson closed the service with "Amazing Grace" as members of the congregation joined in the singing.

The congregation stayed long after the food was put away to enjoy music and fellowship together on the long desolate corridor of North Rampart Street, made bright that night by the presence of the Holy Spirit-filled members of All Souls.

Services are held every Sunday at 11 a.m. with a potluck lunch afterwards. On Wednesday there is dinner at 6 p.m. followed by praise worship and Bible study.

— by Ann Ball and Ben Jenkins,
communications staff of the Diocese of Louisiana,
reported by the Episcopal News Service

A Theology of Sexuality and the Episcopal Church

The goal of this course is to help everyone – lay and clergy – gain an understanding of the integration of sexuality and theology. It will address how religion and faith affect understanding of sexuality; provide a resource base for understanding issues pertaining to sexuality; and address what the clergy need to know about sexuality. *Led by The Rev. Dr. Paul S. Rimassa, Rector, Trinity Church, Rocky Hill. Dr. Rimassa earned his Ph.D. in Education from the University of Pennsylvania. He holds a Masters Degree in Pastoral Counseling–Marriage and Family Therapy from LaSalle University and a Master of Divinity and Master of Moral Theology from Seton Hall University. In November 2005, Paul was received as a priest into the Episcopal Church by Bishop Councill. He was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in November 1983. From 2003 to 2006, he served as Executive Director of The Center for Sexuality and Religion, a national program affiliated with Human Sexuality programs at Widener University.*

When Tuesday, October 10, 2006, 7 to 9 p.m.

Cost No fee

Where Trinity Episcopal Church

Crescent Ave

Rocky Hill, NJ 08553

609 921-8971

Register By Thursday, October 5, 2006

Registration Mail copy of registration form, call Sarah Paige, 609 394-5281, ext. 10, or fax registration form to 609 394-9546

Contact person The Rev. Dr. Paul S. Rimassa at 609 921-8971 or at psrimassa@optonline.net

Groundwork: Evangelism for Episcopal Congregations Today

Sponsored by the Diocesan Congregational Development Committee, this conference will: Look at the present context of urgency and hope for Episcopal congregations; Help congregations to do the groundwork for evangelism in their own settings; Dig deeply into issues of invitation and incorporation; Present a vision for growth, health, and vitality in congregational life. *Led by The Rev. Charles Fulton, III, Director of Congregational Development, Episcopal Church Center, NYC, and The Rev. Dr.*

James B. Lemler, Director of Mission, Episcopal Church Center, NYC

When Saturday, October 21, 2006, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost \$10, lunch provided

Where Trinity Cathedral

801 West State Street

Trenton, New Jersey 08618

Register by Monday, October 16, 2006

Registration Mail copy of registration form, call Sarah Paige, 609 394-5281, ext. 10, or fax registration form to 609 394-9546

Contact person The Rev. Dr. Virginia M. Sheay, 609 397-7886 or revdrvirginias@aol.com

30th Anniversary of ordination of women to the priesthood: October 22

Celebrate by attending a Festival Eucharist at Trinity Cathedral on 22 October, at 4 pm. Women clergy of the diocese will serve as celebrants and the preacher will be Assisting Bishop of the Diocese of Newark, the Right Reverend Dr. Carol Joy Gallagher, the first American Indian (Cherokee) female bishop in the Church. All welcome (men as well as women!)

Running the church

Vestry News

In its September meeting, the Vestry:

- reviewed our investment of the Molitor Bequest
- appointed people to work on the audit and to prepare our application for funding to the Board of Missions
- decided to have a booth at Swedesboro Day
- heard a report on the beginning of our Sunday School year
- heard a report on the 9/11 service
- decided to use the bricks left over from the Old Cemetery wall to repair the New Cemetery wall
- explored the possibility of putting a modular building on our current parking lot to provide office and Sunday School facilities.

Church Office

The Church office is staffed and ordinarily open Mondays and whenever we have volunteer help. Phone messages will be answered. Please contact us on 467-1227 if you have some time to spare to help

Newsletter

Our newsletter is now going by email to all parishioners for whom we have email addresses. Other parishioners will receive it by regular mail. If you

received a copy of this by mail and would be happy to read it online or download your copy, please email us at office@trinityswedesboro.org, and we will add you to our email list. Print copies are only sent to those who regularly attend Trinity, or who specifically ask for it.

Fall Calendar

October (limited update)

- 1- 3 Clergy Conference
- 7 National Acolyte Festival, Washington DC
- 8 Blessing of the Animals, 2pm, Parish House lawn (to be determined)
Woodbury Convocation Meeting, 4pm at Penns Grove
- 16 Annual Blood Drive at Trinity Parish House (1-7)
Vestry Meeting at 7pm in Parish House
- 21 Groundwork Evangelism Conference, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
- 22 Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women in the Episcopal Church, 4pm at Trinity Cathedral, Trenton

November

- 1 All Saints Day Regional Service at Our Merciful Savior in Penns Grove – 7 PM
- 5 Pig Roast Fundraiser at Rode's Fireside
- 8 Woodbury Convocation Meeting with the Bishop, 7pm at Woodbury
- 20 Vestry Meeting, 7pm in Parish House
- 23 Community Thanksgiving Service

December

- 10 St. Lucia Fest, 6pm in Trinity Church
- 15 Christmas in Swedesboro – Kings Highway Tour
- 16 Christmas Party at Rulon House
- 18 Vestry Meeting, 7pm in Parish House
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day

December 26-January 5 Church Office Closed

January

- 15 Vestry Meeting, 7pm in Parish House
- 21 Annual Meeting, 11:15am in Parish House
- 21 Manor Care Visit and Service, 3pm

October 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Pentecost 17 8am Holy Eucharist 9am Christian Ed 10am Holy Eucharist with Music	2 Office Open	3	4	5	6 Vicar's day off; Office closed	7
8 Pentecost 18 8am Holy Eucharist 9am Christian Ed 10am Holy Eucharist with Music 2pm Blessing of the Animals 4pm Convocation meeting	9 Office Open	10	11	12	13 Vicar's day off; Office closed	14 6 th Annual New Sweden History Conference at Gloria Dei, Philadelphia
15 Pentecost 19 8am Holy Eucharist 9am Christian Ed 10am Holy Eucharist with Music 3pm Manor Care	16 Office Open Blood Drive 7pm Vestry	17	18 Office Open	19	20 Vicar's day off; Office closed	21 Groundwork Evangelism Conference, Trenton
22 Pentecost 20 8am Holy Eucharist 9am Christian Ed 10am Holy Eucharist with Music 4pm Service for 30 th anniversary of ordination of women to the Priesthood in NJ	23 Office Open	24	25 Office Open	26	27 Vicar's day off; Office closed Dining Club 7 pm	28
29 Pentecost 21 8am Holy Eucharist 9am Christian Ed 10am Holy Eucharist with Music	30 Office Open	31				

Trinity Episcopal Church
(founded 1703)
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(856) 467 1227
<http://trinityswedesboro.org>
office@trinityswedesboro.org

Trinity Talk

the newsletter of Trinity Episcopal "Old Swedes" Church in Swedesboro, New Jersey

October 2006

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00am	Holy Eucharist (said)
9:00am	Christian Education for all ages
10:00am	Holy Eucharist (with music)

Communion to the homebound upon request.
Call 467-1227

The Rev. Dr. Raewynne J. Whiteley, Vicar
Office & Home: (856) 467-1227
Email: vicar@trinityswedesboro.org

VESTRY AND OFFICERS

Sr. Warden	Al Rohrman, Jr.	423-1377
Jr. Warden	Bob Fredd	241-0617
Clerk	Jo Sienkiewicz	467-6645
Ass't. Clerk	Cheryl Michael	423-1339
Treasurer	Sandy Strudwick	467-0577
Ass't. Treasurer	Linda Fritz	769-5450

VESTRY

Sallye Aikens	358-7200
Maggie Brace	769-3985
Steve Faix	468-7325
Bonnie Holmstrom	935-8018
Bill Horner, Jr.	769-2969
Sandy McHenry	223-0403
Jim Randall	467-5681
Fred Waibel	423-5456