

**Weekly Calendar**

***Sunday***

8 AM Holy Eucharist  
9:30 AM Church School &  
Adult Education  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

***Monday***

10:30 AM Sarah's Circle  
7:00 PM Handbells

***Tuesday***

7:15 PM Alanon  
(for newcomers)  
8 PM Alanon  
8 PM AA

***Wednesday***

9 AM Holy Eucharist  
7:30 PM AA

***Thursday***

12:00 PM ECW (2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs)

***Friday***

10 AM Catacomb Closet  
5 PM Community Dinner

***Saturday***

7:30 AM Men's Breakfast  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday)

The Church of The Holy Trinity  
212 South High Street  
West Chester, PA 19382

**The Narthex News**  
**March 2006**

The Rev. Edward G. Rice, Interim Rector  
The Rev. Patricia Stelz, Assistant Rector  
The Rev. Thomas W. Platt, Associate Rector Emeritus  
Conrad Olie, Organist/Choir Director  
Elaine Cumens, Handbell Director  
Sandi Laxton, Bookkeeper  
Barbara Gabriele, Parish Secretary  
Carol Meehan, Parish Secretary

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February 13, 2006

Dear friends,

By the time you receive this issue of our newsletter, Lent should be about to begin with Ash Wednesday on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Lent is not “fashionable” these days. It is not “cool,” “hot,” “hip,” “in,” “cutting-edge,” “top-ten,” “technologically superior” or, even, nano. Lent is unfamiliar to many who have not grown-up with this annual season set aside for “self-examination” and “preparation for Easter.” Others who grew-up with it and find it familiar, may honor it, but not necessarily find it helpful in their journey through life.

The word, “lent,” comes from the old English word for spring and it is rightly about renewal, rebirth. It is about tilling the soil for the fruitful harvest. It is about looking forward, working for the future with God’s assurance that the future will be more complete, full of life, abundant, ever-flowing, everlasting life.

The forty day season—the Sundays are mini-Easters and don’t count—start with Ash Wednesday named after the cross placed on the foreheads of believers as they hear the words, “Dust you are and to dust you shall return.”

Probably the best Ash Wednesday sermon I ever heard was about composting. Compost piles are not pleasant to be around. They stink and remind us that everything dies, is always changing, decomposing, being re-cycled, does not last forever. They also remind us that this is a good thing which provides for a more fruitful tomorrow. Ash Wednesday invites us to look at ourselves the same way we look at the rest of the world and to ask ourselves, “What in my life do I need to slough off, re-cycle so that the rest of my time can be more fruitful for myself and others. What is already dead in me and wounding my immune system, what am I holding onto that is cancerous to those around me and to God’s world?”

“Why, for heaven’s sake, do we have to look at this unpleasant stuff? Why do we have to slow down and look at this stuff when there is so much important stuff that needs to be done? Why can’t we just keep on with keeping on?” Because we can’t! This garbage holds us up, detours us, makes us difficult to be around, sickens us.”

Lent rightly understood does not focus on the garbage in us or in the world, but rather celebrates that we have a God who is ready, willing and able, even eager, to help remove these burdens from us, show us a new way, empower us to live into that new way.

The disciplines of lent: prayer, fasting, study, giving to those in need, all have as their aim not suffering and pain—Good Lord, there is enough of that already—but the shedding of that which leads to more suffering and pain.

We hold off on saying, “Alleluia!” so that we get so eager for its promise, the hope it points to, that we will let nothing get in the way of our Easter Joy and Shout—particularly our own garbage. Be done with it. Or, join me in offering it to God who can transform it and us into something more blessed for all!

Fr. Edward G. Rice

# More.....Parish News

**HOLY TRINITY PRAYER CYCLE** - You may have noticed in the bulletin and the Prayers of the People certain ministries named in our *prayer cycle*. This is an eleven-week cycle, and we will be informing you of the upcoming parts of the cycle in each *Narthex News*. Please consider these ministries in your prayers, and allow us the privilege of connecting you with one or more of these ministries as the spirit moves you! Here is the list for the next few weeks:

Week of March 5th	Church School, Handbell Choir, Thursday Bible Study
Week of March 12th	Communications Committee, Lay Readers, Vestry
Week of March 19th	Community Dinners, Lay Visitors, Wednesday Bible Study
Week of March 26th	Education for Ministry (EFM), Library, Youth Choir

## Episcopal Church Women (EWC)

The Episcopal Church Women (EWC) of Holy Trinity will meet for lively fellowship, brownbag lunches, and Bible study at noon on Thursday, March 9, in the St. Andrew's Room. We will continue our look at the eighth century prophets, focusing this month on Amos.

In February, under Ann Wilcox's leadership we read the words of Micah, whose ancient teachings: "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks" are relevant to today's turbulent times. Truly the "minor" prophets are only minor in length!

Also, mark your calendars for April 13 when Pat Ritter will lead our study of Hosea (prophet to Israel). Contact Jennifer Seaver ([jseaver@axs2000.net](mailto:jseaver@axs2000.net)) or telephone 610-692-0653 for additional information. We look forward to seeing you!



## HOLY TRINITY GARDENING COMMITTEE

**Kick Off Meeting**  
**March 19<sup>th</sup> after the 8 am service**  
**In the Handbell Choir Room**

Please join us in the Handbell Choir Room as we discuss options for the gardens for the upcoming season. No experience necessary – all are welcome to join us! “Many hands make light work!!!” Please call Ginny Zahn at 610-436-6142 if you have any questions.

# OTHER NEWS!!!



Due to a conflict with the spring Wine Tasting fundraiser, the trip to the **Millennium Theater** in Strasburg, PA has been rescheduled. On Saturday, June 10, 2006 the theater will be offering the performance of Ruth. This performance is a close interpretation of the Old Testament Book of Ruth. It is a story of second chances for a Gentile woman whose faith grafts her into the lineage of Jesus Christ and the noble man whose love redeemed her from hopelessness. Tickets are \$49. Those interested in attending please contact Joanne Smith Whetstone at 610-696-3495.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer will be celebrated on Friday, March 3rd at 1:00 pm at Birmingham Friends Meeting, 125 Birmingham Road. This is a yearly celebration of Church Women United and Everyone is invited to attend.

## CAMPUS NEWS

In the fall, Sarah Vogel, who is a freshman at West Chester University came to us with a request to use our parish hall once a month on a Saturday night. Sarah started Skyline Booking with the hopes of creating a safe ALTERNATIVE environment for high school and college students in the West Chester area. Her booking company brings together local musical groups to create a safe atmosphere free of drugs and alcohol.

After checking her references, the vestry gave their OK for Sarah to use the parish hall for this ministry to the community. There was one concert in November, two in January, and one in February. The young adults who come to the concerts are very grateful for the opportunity that our church has given them, and we look forward to this relationship growing. Our church youth group has attended the concerts and sells refreshments as a fund raiser for the youth group.

Sarah and her friend Matthew Harris have been meeting with Pastor Pat brainstorming ways that The Church of the Holy Trinity can support our young neighbors down the street. The students at WCU are a diverse group of students with diverse needs. Sarah and Matt light up when they talk about how important it would be to provide a space for the students for fellowship and for relevant and meaningful discussions. Discussions would be one of the ways that the students could come together, dinner and a movie, service projects, pilgrimages are other ways that we can offer opportunities to build a safe community and minister to the students.

The best part of this is that it has grown organically out of discussions with Sarah and Matthew. It is a format that they are developing and they are excited about. They will bring their friends, advertise the events and spread the word.

You will get to meet Sarah and Matthew on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> because she will be singing a solo before the 10:30 service and during the communion. Matthew will accompany her on the piano. Here is a little information about them.

Matthew Harris is 19 years old and a freshman at WCU. He is a piano performance and music education major. He resides in Douglassville with his parents and two younger brothers. His home congregation is St. Luke's Lutheran church in Gilbertsville.

Sarah Vogel is 19 years old and a freshman at WCU. She is currently a music major with a concentration in vocal performance and a minor in business. Sarah was born in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania and has lived there all her life. Her home congregation is Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Chester.

The first spaghetti dinner and get together for the students will be Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, or need more information, please call Pastor Pat at 610-696-4640.



Originating in the fourth century of the church, the season of Lent was originally a time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil. Since these new members were to be received into a living community of faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Lent has traditionally been marked by penitential prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and there were many foods that observant Christians would not eat during Lent: foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the Tuesday before Lent, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without spoiling. The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the tradition of having pancakes on Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour. Having pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday is still observed in many churches.

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER**—Please join the Acolyte Guild on Shrove Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> when they will be serving up pancakes and sausage as the traditional prelude to the season of Lent. The dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7:30 in the parish hall. The proceeds will benefit the Acolyte Guild in order to fund their activity and vestment needs. Advance tickets will be sold in the Narthex after church services and in the church office. Tickets will also be available at the door. We ask that you purchase in advance if possible so that we can plan for the appropriate number. The cost will be: Adults - \$4.00, Children under 12 - \$2.50, and Families - \$10.00.

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE**

9 am	Service and distribution of ashes
12 Noon	Service and distribution of ashes
4 pm	Children's service
7 pm	Service and distribution of ashes

#### **LENTEN DISCUSSION SERIES BEGINNING THURSDAY, MARCH 9<sup>th</sup>**

Our Thursday evening Lenten Discussion Series will follow the familiar format of 5:30 fellowship and dinner; 6:30 to 7:30 discussion. We will do "potluck" for dinner but this year we will have a large pot of soup, so that those who are pressed for time can simply bring bread, cheese or fruit to share. Also, if there is sufficient interest from those who are reluctant to go out at night, day-time sessions might be arranged.

The discussions will be on *Reaching Out* which will enable us to explore both the "welcoming" theme we are focusing on this year and prayer, a traditional Lenten topic. To quote a brief description of the book, "In this best-seller the eminent spiritual guide Henri Nouwen describes three movements in our search for union with God. From loneliness to solitude explores our experience of our own selves and our longings. The second movement from hostility to hospitality focuses on our relationships with others. In the third movement the challenge is to progress from illusion to prayer. Nouwen's plan leads us through good times and struggles, joys and sorrows, to joyful union with God... As we are transformed in love, painful passages and tensions become signs of hope."

We would encourage everyone to read this wonderful book. Short presentations before each discussion will enable those who are unable to do so to be full participants. Copies of the book will be available in the parish office.

#### **LENTEN DISCUSSION SERIES FOR CHILDREN**

The Lenten Discussion Series this year will provide an opportunity for families to enjoy fellowship and dinner at 5:30 p.m.. Then at 6:30, the adults will participate in the adult Lenten series and the children will have their own Lenten series with stories and crafts. Please call the church office, 610-696-4640, to let them know if you will be attending the Lenten series so that we can have supplies ready for the children. The series begins on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

# Children, Youth and Family Ministries



## FIRST FRIDAY IN MARCH FAMILY FUN NIGHT

If you're looking for a good, clean family outing on a Friday night, bring the kids and your favorite games to the Parish Hall on **March 3rd at 6 PM**. We hope to see you there! Any questions, please call Heather Robino at 610-873-8984

**Making Marriage Work – Part II** – The same group that met in the fall will meet again this winter/spring to continue the great discussions. We will begin on **Sunday evening March 5<sup>th</sup>** from 5 – 6:30 p.m. in the St. Andrew's Room. Part II will be a little different. We will discuss videos, participate in service projects and write our spiritual autobiography. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, we will look at a video and discuss it, and we will set up the schedule until June. Look forward to seeing you. Please call Heather Robino, 610-873-8984, Pastor Pat, 610-696-4640 or Sally Wilson, 610-436-6599 for more information.

## UPCOMING PARENT GET-TOGETHERS

**Parents** who are raising children of any age – mark your calendars – Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Andrew's Room. Let's share ideas about the Sunday morning schedule at church. The Sunday morning schedule works for some and not for others so let's talk about it. Pastor Pat will be with us to listen and to bring the information back to the Worship Committee. If you have comments but can't meet with the other parents on Sunday, March 5th, please email Pastor Pat at [patstelz@htrinitywc.com](mailto:patstelz@htrinitywc.com) with your comments. If you have questions or comments about the parents gathering on the first Sunday of each month, please call Heather Robino, 610-873-8984.

**SINGLE PARENTS** - If you are interested in participating in a new group to discuss issues of common concern, perhaps meeting once a month after the 10:30 service over a pizza lunch (including kids/perhaps with babysitting.), call Liz Burkholder 610-696-0440 or Karen Porter at 610-344-9926.



**Super Bowl of Caring** – On Sunday, February 5, 2006 while the country celebrated Super Bowl Sunday, our church school joined churches around the country to raise money to contribute to local soup kitchens or food pantries. This organization started this national effort in 1993. Each year local groups benefit from this effort. Our church school children will decide where to send the money that was raised. We will report next month. By asking parishioners to give \$1 as they leave the service on Super Bowl Sunday, over \$28 million have been raised since 1993. As of today, with groups still reporting, this year's effort raised \$3,321,741.92. Our parish contributed \$206.70. Thank you for your participation.



**VBS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** is coming in August and we need YOUR help. Please volunteer to help with this exciting project. Contact Eileen Bonine (610-399-9518 or [ebonine13@comcast.net](mailto:ebonine13@comcast.net)) if you can help with planning and/or implementation of the program.

# OUTREACH

**COMMUNITY DINNERS** need one more certified food handler before May. Betty Engan is resigning as CD co-chair in May. Chester County Health Dept. has made it EASIER TIME WISE to get your certification.

Their new plan is called "Pastor Training"

- 1) study the book for 8 hours before class day
- 2) attend 1 day of class, test at end of day (multiple choice test)

Alternate way:

- 1) attend 2 days of class
- 2) test taken a few days later

Betty has posted the information from the CCHD website on the bulletin board near the office. She or Al has books to loan to you. Fee can be reimbursed

## CATACOMB CLOSET

Business is booming!! We need your donations, especially jewelry, bric-a-brac and household items. Please help!

**Through your generosity**, one of the children of the two families that we have adopted had a wonderful birthday. We will keep you up to date on the families needs and special celebrations. If you would like more information, please contact Elaine Cumens, 610-436-5290 or Carol Samuelson, 610-692-5115.

# IN-REACH

## PRAYER CHAIN

In need of additional prayer? Are you having surgery, a difficult relationship, moving, struggling, hurting, concerned about your children, aging parent, health problems? Please direct any concerns or need for prayers to Barbara Ramsay at 610-363-6899.

Members of the Prayer Chain will lift up in prayer daily each request. All prayer requests are kept confidential. Please don't forget to let us know if the need still exists or not so that the concern can be removed from the chain, and we can give thanks and praise to God.

Members of the Prayer Chain are Jane Gillem, Louise Highberger, Bette Twaddell, Sue Greenwood, Gladys Barrett, Cathy Stout.

## CAREGIVERS

The March meeting of **Caregivers at Holy Trinity** will be on Tuesday, March 14 at 11:00 AM. Bring a bag lunch if you wish.

Fr. Rice will be dedicating and blessing our group at that time. We continue to need people to visit our local hospitals on a regular basis to augment the role of our rectors and to let our parishioners know that we as a parish care.

In addition, **it is important that parishioners or their families or representatives inform the office when someone is hospitalized, in a nursing home or needs a home visit.** Please call 610-696-4640 and let someone at the church know.

# Parish News

## USHERS NEEDED

People interested and willing to become ushers and greeters. It's very rewarding and fun to greet and meet new people (and get to know some of your fellow members). Please call Maria Holland at 610-436-6577 or Beth Holden at 610-407-4151 if you are interested.

## HUMAN RELATIONS TASK FORCE MEETING

will be held Tuesday, March 7, 5:30-6:30 pm in the St. Andrew's Room. The proposed agenda (1) combining with Episcopal Peace Fellowship (Haiti ministry focus), (2) renaming our group, (3) continuing conversation and planning for the 40th anniversary of Ascension-Holy Trinity combined parishes, (4) community ministry generally. Contacts are Pearl Hicks (610) 436-4365 [blanti-eri@yahoo.com](mailto:blanti-eri@yahoo.com); Karen Porter (610) 344-9926 [kporter47@aol.com](mailto:kporter47@aol.com). Bring brown bag dinner if desired.

**New Holy Trinity Website** (From the Communications Committee) An improved and redesigned website is well underway with new navigation, graphics and easy content update capability. The internet address will remain [www.HTrinityWC.com](http://www.HTrinityWC.com) and your comments are always welcome. We are looking for volunteers to assist with monthly updates and new content - this requires only four or five hours effort per month on average. Computer expertise is helpful but not required as training will be provided. The committee is also seeking additional members. Please contact Bill McKay 610-692-9917 or the church office if interested learning more.

**Episcopal Cursillo Spring Weekend** - the next Cursillo weekend will be held **May 18 - 21st at St. Mary of Providence in Elverson PA**. If you are interested learning more please contact Don Stout 610-933-2771 or Bill McKay or the church office.

## C A F E (Christian Adult Formation and Education Ministry) (formerly Adult Ed.)

March 5—*Ready or Not?* - 3 questions to evaluate a church's readiness to reach out. Jennifer Seaver will facilitate this discussion at 9:30 in the Parish Hall.

Due to the overwhelming response in the fall to the Making Marriage Work video series, we have decided to start another group. Please contact Heather Robino if you're interested at [hrobino@verizon.net](mailto:hrobino@verizon.net) or phone 610-873-8984. Date and time to be determined.