From the Rector

All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin...

We are a people of thanksgiving all year 'round, yet this time of year is especially full of thanks. We just concluded another stewardship campaign in October - many thanks for your ongoing financial support of our life and mission in this historic place! We began the month of November with the baptism of Henry Theodore Yuhnke, then my seminary classmate, the Rev. Lynn Hade, was instituted as Rector of the Church of The Advent in Hatboro. On the 9th, we will give thanks for all those who have served their country in both war and peace, and then on the 16th, we will give thanks for the 25th wedding anniversary of Chuck and Patty McGee, followed by our national feast day of Thanksgiving on the 27th. And as if that were not enough, my friend, the Rev. Kevin Morris will be celebrating his 10th anniversary of ordination on the feast of St. Andrew, November 30.

To the outward eye, at this time of year we would seem to be moving more and more toward darkness and death. The trees are bare, plants have gone dormant, and the days grow ever shorter. In the midst of life, we are in death; so goes the requiem hymn. Yet looking through an incarnation and resurrection lens, we can say with confidence that in the midst of death, we are in life. I am reminded of a reading from the Wisdom of Solomon that is taken from our burial rite, "The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality."

As we move out of the festive harvest season, we approach the season of Advent, which is marked by restrained, yet joyous expectation. To the foolish, all is darkness and death. To the faithful, though the darkness may grow around us, the light is never extinguished and death is vanquished. At
the close of this 2,014th year of our Lord Jesus Christ, may you be blessed with a spirit of thanksgiving. Blessings, Father Richard

Our Staff

The Rev. Richard Robyn, Rector
The Rev. Don Graff, Priest Associate
Mary Sampson, M.A., Organist/Choirmaster
Chris Claypoole, Secretary
Michael Pacillio, Sexton

Our Vestry

Lorraine Henry ’15, Rector’s Warden
Sarah Putterman ’15, Accounting Warden
Amy Furlong, ’15
Lynne Geliebter ’15
Raymond Grossmuller ’16
John McClarin ’17
Jason McConomy ’17
Susan McConomy ’15
Charles McGee ’17
Stew Mills ’16
Victoria Sayers ’17
Judith Williamson ’15

Baptism

On Sunday, November 2, we welcomed Henry Theodore Yuhnke into the body of Christ through the waters of baptism as part of our All Saints celebration. Please visit our Facebook page for pictures of the celebration.

Grant, Lord God, to all who have been baptized into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, that, as we have put away the old life of sin, so we may be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and live in righteousness and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Noel and Clint Williams on the birth of their adopted son Elliott.

May God who by baptism adopts us as his children, grant them grace.

Blessing of the Animals

We observed the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday, October 5, with a traditional blessing of the animals in the churchyard after each of the services. Many of our parishioners brought their dogs to church and it was a wonderful chance to give thanks for all the joy pets bring to our lives. We even welcomed a feathered friend, Jade! Please visit our Facebook page for pictures of the occasion.

Christ the King

On Sunday, November 23, we will celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. It marks the culmination of the long season of Pentecost which is about mission, ministry and life together. On this Sunday we look toward a time when all the people of the earth come together under Christ’s grace-filled rule.

Website Resources

Calendar
History
Mission
Newsletter Archive
Photos
Sermons
Highlights of the Year

Kickoff Sunday
September 7

Sunday, October 5
Animal Blessing

Harvest Sunday
October 19

All Saints Sunday
November 2

Remembrance Sunday
November 9

Saturday, November 15
Diocesan Convention

Sunday, December 21
Lessons & Carols

Wednesday, December 24
Christmas Eve Services

Epiphany Sunday
January 4

Sunday, February 15
Mardi Gras Luncheon

Ash Wednesday
February 18

Palm Sunday
March 29

Maundy Thursday
April 2

Good Friday
April 3

Easter Sunday
April 5

Pentecost Sunday
May 24

Trinity Sunday, May 31
Annual Picnic

Church School and Confirmation Class

The Church School program is off to a great start! Our confirmation class has met faithfully at 9am in the church each Sunday and has made great progress in learning all about the Episcopal Church and our Christian heritage. Father Robyn has led the group in great discussion and we look forward to participating in outreach programs in the near future as well as a field trip to the Walnut Street Theater in December! Although the current confirmation class is made up of our teenage boys (Aaron, George, Iain and Jimmy), all are welcome to sit in and join the conversation!

Our younger students are just as faithful, attending church school during the 10am service each Sunday morning. I am grateful that Sarah Henry has agreed to co-teach the children. What a great example of a former church school student taking on such an important role in the Christian Formation of our youth. If you are interested in helping with the church school, please see me after church or contact the church office. Respectfully, Lorie Henry

Community Involvement

On September 18, Fr. Robyn was privileged for the second time to represent Trinity Church Oxford in giving the Invocation for Philadelphia’s City Council. The day begins by greeting people from all over the city in the ornate caucus room, then proceeding to Council Chambers for the opening prayer. We are grateful for the mutually supportive relationship between city hall and Trinity that Fr. Robyn has cultivated.

Fr. Robyn has been asked to offer the invocation for the annual Veterans’ Day observance at the Lawncrest Recreation Center on November 11 at 8:30pm. In addition, he will be blessing a new monument dedicated to those in our community who have served their country in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Diocesan Convention

On Saturday, November 15, Pete Datos, Lorie Henry and Chuck McGee will join Father Richard in representing our parish at Diocesan Convention, which will be held at the Church of the Good Samaritan in Paoli. The opening Eucharist will begin at 8:30am. The theme of this year’s Convention is taken from the service of Holy Baptism: “Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.” This year, the convention will feature a choir representing the entire diocese - rehearsal is at 7:45am the morning of convention, please see Pete Datos if you’re interested in singing. Please visit the diocesan website to learn more about convention.

Episcopal Community Services

We are providing Christmas gifts for a number of children in the programs of Episcopal Community Services again this year. A board located near the font will have hearts with information about the children with gift suggestions. To participate, take the top heart and write your name on the bottom one, which will be left on the
board. Please bring all gifts to Trinity by December 7, and remember that they should be unwrapped and include a copy of the receipt showing the value of the gift. ECS recommends a value of $35. Thank you for your generosity and for giving the gift of Christmas joy to a child who might not otherwise experience it.

Halloween at Trinity
We opened the Buchanan Building to our friends and neighbors again this Halloween for a little "spirited" fun. There were tables of treats for young and old, coffee and apple cider on offer. Many thanks to Mrs. Betty Graff for festively decorating the hall and coordinating the entire event! Many children and parents from our neighborhood came through. Please visit our Facebook page to see photos of the event.

Kickoff Sunday
On Sunday, September 8, we celebrated Father Richard's fifth anniversary at Trinity, welcomed back the Choir and Church School, and commissioned the Confirmation Class. Please visit our Facebook page to see photos of the day.

Memorial Gates
The alcove on the historic south entrance of the church has long been frequented by neighborhood mischief makers and we've tried to deter this with everything from flood lighting to trimming trees to a sonic anti-loitering device, none of which worked. In an effort to protect and also beautify the church, the Rector and Vestry decided to have a set of iron gates custom-built by artisan blacksmiths using traditional techniques. The design is inspired by examples of colonial ironwork found throughout Philadelphia and the gates will be a substantial testament to our generation's stewardship of Trinity for centuries to come. The project was funded by bequests from the estates of Mary Dersch and George Gallagher. The gates were installed on September 18 and will be dedicated at a later date (to be announced). Please visit our Facebook page for pictures of the gates.

Memorials
We remember two longtime parishioners who fell asleep in the Lord last month. Edna Heddonorf, 94, died on October 15 and was buried at Trinity on October 20. Marie DeWitt, 92, died on October 31 and was buried at Trinity on November 7. May Edna and Marie's souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Music Ministry
The bell choir is an important intergenerational ministry at Trinity, but our bells were damaged by a basement flood a few years ago and became inoperable. Thanks to generous contributions in memory of John C. Sampson and in celebration of the wedding of Amy Annand-Furlong and John Blakeley, we will dedicate a new set of handbells on Christmas Eve.

Donations in memory of John C. Sampson were given by Mr. and Mrs. John Annand, Mrs. Chris Claypoole, Ms. Heidi Dillon, Ms. Leslie Donnelly, Ms. Marlene Druding, Ms. Anne Ehrke, The Rev'd and Mrs. Nathaniel R. Elliot, Mrs. Ruth Fink, Ms. Rob Fox, Ms. Maria Garcia, Ms. Madelaine Goldman, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Grossmuller, Group Melvin Design LLC, Mr. and Mrs. John Lee, Mrs. Debora Liberi, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Liberi, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Marzen, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. John McClarin, The McConomy Family, Ms. Jill Melamed, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Orr, Mr. and Mrs. Orin Puniello, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Putterman, the Rev. Richard Robyn and Mr. Peter Datos, Mrs. Mary Sampson, Ms. Laraine Sindone, Dr. John Taylor and the Rev. Phyllis Taylor, Ms. Cindy Wasdick, Ms. Jayne Weiner, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Williamson, and Ms. Claire Witz.

Philadelphia Protestant Home
We are providing Christmas gifts for residents of the Philadelphia Protestant Home again this year through their Adopt-A-Resident program. Instead of adopting specific residents we are asking for donations that the home can give to those in need. These items should be brought to Trinity no later than December 7 and should not be wrapped. Suggested gifts include: packs of cotton garments such as socks, v-neck undershirts, sweaters, or sweat pants in sizes M-XL. Gifts of Dove soap, gentle shampoo or unscented hand lotion are also accepted. Monetary gifts can be given for a variety of needs, including haircuts and personal products. Please make checks out to Trinity Church Oxford and note PPH in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity and care for our elderly neighbors.

Redevelopment Project Update
Many thanks to everyone who helped clean out the Children's House on October 18 in preparation for upcoming renovations. The building which was originally built as the sexton's house will be converted for use as the church office and multi-purpose space, pending redevelopment of the parcel of land located under the current office & parish house at 6901 Rising Sun Avenue. We are not selling the land, rather using a long-term lease to maintain ownership of the land for future generations.
Remembrance Sunday
On Sunday, November 9, we will have a special service of remembrance to honor those who died in the service of our country in the armed forces, as well as first responders such as fallen firefighters, police and EMT's. If you know of any veterans or someone who is currently serving, please remember them on this special day.

Stewardship
Last month, we asked all members of Trinity Oxford to pledge a portion of the blessings (time, talent and treasure) provided to each of us by God for the upkeep and growth of our Parish. On Sunday, October 19, we gathered the pledges for the year during our Harvest Thanksgiving celebration. If you forgot to turn in your pledge card that day, don't worry, you can put it in the offering plate in the coming weeks or mail it in to the church office using the pre-addressed envelope. Thank you to all who give so generously so that we can continue our mission of preaching the Gospel of Christ and celebrating the Sacraments so beautifully in our national treasure church. If you have any questions, please see Ray Grossmuller, Stewardship Chair.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets
We have a long tradition at Trinity of helping those in need. This year, the Women of Trinity will be coordinating our Thanksgiving food baskets - please let Nellie Duddy know if you can help. Please bring your food items or a cash donation to church on or before November 23.

Trinity's Top Chef
Many thanks to Mrs. Maureen Lee who has volunteered to curate our newest column, Trinity's Top Chef, where we present favorite recipes throughout the year for the enjoyment of our readers. Over the years, several Trinity cookbooks have been published, so we know there are great recipes out there - please submit your favorite new recipes (not previously published) to Maureen, and perhaps we can publish a new edition! Please see the end of this newsletter for our second submission, Butternut Squash Velvet Soup.

United Thank Offering
Many thanks to everyone who donated to the United Thank Offering (UTO). The blue box has been distributed by the women of the Episcopal Church since the 1920's. Through the UTO, men, women and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our daily blessings. All offerings are used to support grants for ministries at home and overseas as an outreach of the Episcopal Church. The ingathering of donations will take place at Diocesan Convention on November 15.
Vestry Highlights
At our last meeting, the Vestry received an update on the 6901 Rising Sun Avenue redevelopment project. The committee continues to work closely with our realtor, RetailSites LLC, to identify a suitable tenant. The vestry also received an update on renovating the Children's House, which will be converted to the space for the church office and multipurpose meeting space. We are in the very early stages of determining the scope of the renovation and will keep the congregation informed as we move forward.

The Vestry approved a motion to begin negotiations to deposit our archives with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP). Although the archives will be housed at HSP, Trinity will retain ownership of all materials. We will provide an update once the negotiations are finalized and the archives are deposited.

Please do not hesitate to speak with Father Robyn or a member of the Vestry about any questions or concerns you may have about the programs or projects going on at Trinity. You are always welcome to join a committee or even just attend a meeting to gain more information about a project you are wondering about. Remember, the Vestry is here to serve you and we welcome your feedback! The next meeting of the Vestry is on Sunday, November 23, after coffee hour in the Buchanan Building.

Weddings
Father Richard had the honor to marry three wonderful couples in recent weeks. Lauren Robyn and Shaun Anthony, pictured left, were married at the Riviera Hotel in Palm Springs on September 27. Nicole Carotenuto and Jason Winters were married at Trinity on October 11. Stephen Freret and Jeffrey Soulges were married at Morris Arboretum on October 29. May God grant all the newlyweds many years!

Your Feedback
Please email any input for the December Trinitarian to me before November 27. Cheers, Pete (your Trinitarian editor)

Schedule of Events
Every Sunday, Mass at 8am (spoken) and 10am (with music and followed by coffee hour in the Buchanan Building

Every Sunday, Senior Choir Rehearsal at 8:45am in the Buchanan Building

Every Sunday (except first Sunday of the month), Confirmation Class at 9am in the church, Church School during the 10am service

Sunday, November 9, Remembrance Sunday

Tuesday, November 11, Women of Trinity at noon in the Buchanan Building
Wednesday, November 12, Property Meeting at 7pm, in the church office

Thursday, November 13, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Saturday, November 15, Diocesan Convention at 8:30am, the Church of the Good Samaritan in Paoli

Sunday, November 16, Renewal of Vows for Patty and Chuck McGee during the 10am service

Wednesday, November 19, Wardens Meeting at 6pm, Finance Meeting at 7pm, in the church office

Thursday, November 20, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Sunday, November 23, Christ the King Sunday, Vestry Meeting after coffee hour in the Buchanan Building

Sunday, November 30, First Sunday of Advent

Thursday, December 4, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Tuesday, December 9, Women of Trinity at noon in the Buchanan Building

Thursday, December 11, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Saturday, December 13, Parish Clean-Up Day at 9:30am in the Church

Saturday, December 13, Christmas Carol at 11am at the Walnut Street Theatre

Thursday, December 18, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Sunday, December 21, Lessons & Carols at 10am followed by greening of the Church

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Family Service at 7pm in the Church (Children's Pageant during the service)

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Concert at 10pm in the Church followed by traditional Midnight Mass at 10:30pm

Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day mass at 9am

Saturday, December 27, Christmas Open House from 3pm to 7pm at the Rectory

Sunday, December 28, Vestry Meeting after coffee hour in the Buchanan Building
Trinity's Top Chef

Butternut Squash Velvet Soup

Ingredients
1 butternut squash (about 1 ½ lbs), peeled, seeded and cut into 2 inch pieces
¾ cup of diced onion
1 cup sliced leek
1 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
1 ½ cups of chicken stock
1 cup water
½ cup heavy cream or whole milk

Directions
Put the squash, onion, leek, olive oil, salt, pepper, stock and water in a large saucepan. Bring to boil, cover partially, reduce heat to low, and boil gently for 20 minutes. Emulsify with blender until smooth. At serving time, add the cream or whole milk and bring the soup to a boil. Serve with a sprig of dill or chives or a sprinkling of crushed nuts.