



The Trinitarian



News, Notes and Inspiration from Trinity Church Oxford

February 2014

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From the Rector

"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel."

The familiar Song of Simeon (Canticle 5 in the Prayer Book) was a central feature in our worship for Candlemas. It was sung by our choir as candles were lit throughout the nave, and then read as part of the Gospel passage of the day. It is the aged Simeon's song of joy and relief as he proclaims the coming of the Messiah to the Temple. Though his song comes down to us from long ago and far away, its truth rings clear through time and space.

Scripture tells us that Simeon was a devout man on whom the Holy Spirit rested. He knew that he would not see death until he had seen the Messiah. So when the Holy Family made their way to the Temple to participate in the rites of the Law, Simeon knew, at once, who was carried in their arms. He knew that the purpose for his life had come to fruition, and so he sang for joy. But he also had words of wisdom for Jesus' parents, and for us.

As we welcome Jesus into the temple of our hearts, proclaiming him as Messiah, we do so with joy. We, like Simeon, await his coming again. But we also know that Simeon warns our Lady, "A sword will pierce your own soul, also." In other words, to love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ is costly. Yes, there is plenty of joy, but there is also the element of personal sacrifice. As followers of the Messiah, we are called always to reach out in love, to make Christ known, to help bring about the coming of his kingdom. Even as we savor the waning weeks of the Epiphany season, Simeon's words remind us of the Lenten journey ahead, when we will walk the way of the cross, making our way to Golgotha, the tomb, and to resurrection.

Blessings, Father Richard



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Annual Meeting

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on April 27th. If you are the chairperson of a committee or group, please submit your group's report for inclusion in the annual report to me no later than March 1st. The report may be emailed to tcoannualreport@gmail.com or given to me on any Sunday in February. Lorie Henry, Rector's Warden

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,
Secretary

Raymond Grossmuler '16

Rose McClarin '14,
Treasurer

Susan McConomy '15

Charles McGee '14

Stew Mills '16

Victoria Sayers '14

Judith Williamson '15

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Baptism of Charlotte Marie Prete

Newly ordained deacon Phil Geliebter baptized his granddaughter, Charlotte Marie Prete, on Sunday, January 12, at Trinity Church Oxford. Proud parents Kaitlyn and Michael Prete, left, presented her, along with her godparents and grandmother Lynne. Please visit our Facebook page for [pictures](#) of the joyous occasion.

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.

Candidates for Vestry



Nominations to serve on the vestry are now open. There are four vacancies to be filled. In order to be considered, you must be a pledging member of Trinity for at least two years, in good standing, and attend Sunday services on a regular basis. As a member of the vestry, you will be expected to attend the monthly vestry meeting, which is currently held after the 10am service

on the last Sunday of the month and you will also be expected to serve on at least one committee. New vestry members will be elected at our annual meeting on April 27th. If you do not feel called to serve on the vestry, please consider becoming a delegate to Diocesan Convention or a Deanery Representative. Please see Chuck McGee, Rose McClarin or Vicki Sayers if you are interested in any of these roles.



Daylight Saving Time

Remember to "spring ahead" on Saturday, March 8, before you retire for the evening or you will be one hour late for church on Sunday.



Deacon Phil

Our own Phil Geliebter was ordained a deacon in Christ's one holy catholic and apostolic church on January 11, 2014 at the Philadelphia Cathedral. Please visit our Facebook page for [pictures](#) and [video](#) of this wonderful celebration!



Emergent Church

"[Emergence Theory](#)" states that history runs in 500 year cycles. There can be no doubt that we are in the midst of sweeping changes in our church and society. Phyllis Tickle is an Episcopalian professor who is widely recognized as an expert in this field. She has put together an engaging video series on this topic which we will be viewing and discussing after coffee hour on three Sundays in February (2/2, 2/9, 2/16). You are welcome to join any or all of these sessions, which will take place in the Buchanan Building. Please join us for this vital conversation that is sure to be an integral part of Trinity's future.



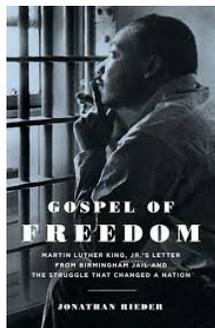
Facebook

It's all about social media these days, so we've decided to start posting Trinity photos on our Facebook page. Even if you're not on Facebook yourself, you can [visit our page](#) and check out what people are saying about Trinity. If you are on Facebook, please make sure you "like" Trinity and share posts that are of interest to you with your own Facebook friends. Together with our website and newsletter, our new social media outreach will hopefully connect even more people with our Trinity community.



GFS Inducts Newest Member

On Sunday, February 2, 2014, we celebrated Jesus' presentation at the temple (Candlemas) and inducted our newest member, Odina, center above, into the [Girls Friendly Society](#). On GFS Sunday, the members help lead our worship and host coffee hour. GFS Week began in the late 1960's to make parishes more aware of the mission and ministry of the organization. Please visit our Facebook page for more [pictures](#) of this event.



Gospel of Freedom

During the season of Lent, Bishop Dan has invited all of the clergy of the diocese to read the book, Gospel of Freedom, along with him and to share it with their parishioners. The book's author, Jonathan Rieder, examines Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" as one of the masterpieces of American moral argument.

You are invited to read the book and join in a one-time Wednesday evening meal and sharing event, in which we will discuss it and watch the American Experience episode entitled, "1964." That was a year in which many things changed. Those who lived through it have a lot to share with those who didn't. This will be a fitting compliment to our ongoing study of the emergent church and the cultural aspects that affect it. Please contact Fr. Robyn for more information.



Lent at Trinity

Jesus spent forty days fasting in the desert during which he endured temptation by Satan. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a forty day liturgical period of prayer and fasting, and will be celebrated at Trinity on March 5 with liturgies at 10am (spoken) and 7pm (with music) in the Church. Both services will include the imposition of ashes, which echoes the ancient Near Eastern tradition of throwing ashes over one's head to signify repentance before God. Each Wednesday in Lent, we will celebrate the Holy Eucharist in the traditional manner at 10am in the Church. All are welcome!



Lenten Learning

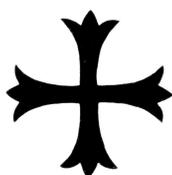
During the Lenten season, there will be an opportunity for an inter-generational learning experience after coffee hour in the Buchanan Building. We will be taking a look at life in the ancient Roman Empire, where Christianity had its beginnings. The series will be capped off with a field trip to the Franklin Institute to view the exhibit, "[One Day in Pompeii](#)."



Mardi Gras Party

Trinity will mark the beginning of Lent with a Mardi Gras luncheon on Sunday, March 2nd. The menu will include items prepared in the spirit of [New Orleans Mardi Gras](#). Please plan to join us in a buffet meal of traditional jambalaya, King cake, and more. We might even share beignets if someone is brave enough to make these traditional doughnuts for us!

Party decorators and table-setters are needed. Volunteers for chopping and vegetable preparations will be rounded up on Sunday, February 23rd, with take-home kits available for volunteers who can spare some time during the week prior to the luncheon. Please contact [Sarah Putterman](#) if you can help us prepare for this fun event.



Memorials

Please contact the [church office](#) if you would like to purchase and dedicate altar flowers. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



Offering Envelopes

The 2014 envelopes have been delivered to members who requested them. If you do not have envelopes and wish to receive them, please contact [Chris Claypoole](#) in the office or [Sarah Putterman](#), our Accounting Warden.



Property Update

Happy New to everyone! As 2013 has come to an end and we begin 2014, I would to update the parish on what's been happening and some upcoming projects I hope to get accomplished in the coming year.

The leaves are going to be removed from the property at some point by our landscaper Appledorn, I am just waiting for the quote and for the weather to cooperate to get this done. Historic Restorations continues to repair various windows in our buildings - currently they are repairing the lower sash window in the kitchen of the Buchanan Building and later, two panes of glass that have been broken for some time will be replaced in the church. The stump that is outside the Buchanan Building will be ground up and removed by Willow Tree Service. The ground around that will later be smoothed out and repaved.

Some projects for the coming year... The "amen" corner of the church needs to be painted. The bilco door on the church needs to be replaced. The ducts

of the heater in the church need to be cleaned. The gutters on the church need to be clean and a down spout has to be replaced in the one corner near the rear of the church.

There will be a cleanup day scheduled for the spring, stay tuned for the date. If anyone has questions or concerns, please feel to [email me](#) or call my cell at (215) 435-2737. Chuck McGee, Property Chair



Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, February 2, our GFS and Church School participated in the international effort to refocus the world's biggest football weekend into a weekend of "loving God, loving our neighbor" known as the [Souper Bowl of Caring](#). Many thanks to everyone who participated in this important effort. In 2013, over \$7.5 million was raised with 8,146 churches and organizations participating in this project. The Souper Bowl began in the early 1990's and has raised over \$90 million to feed the hungry and aid in national and international disasters.



Vestry Highlights

At the last meeting of the Vestry, we passed the 2014 budget and approved Willow Tree Service to remove the stump near the Buchanan Building. Father Richard also discussed the education seminar he will be leading during the first three Sundays in February, a one-time Wednesday evening book discussion about the Gospel of Freedom (see above), and a Lenten Learning and inter-generational trip to the Franklin Institute to visit the Pompeii Ancient Worlds exhibit. The next meeting of the Vestry is on Sunday, February 23, after coffee hour in the Buchanan Building.



Wedding Announcement

Congratulations to [Alexandra Campanaro and Matthew Nodiff](#), who were married on Friday, January 24 at the beautiful Crystal Tea Room in the Wanamaker Building. Alexandra is the daughter of John and Karen Campanaro. Father Robyn co-officiated with Cantor Ellie Schaffer of Temple Shalom in Levittown. May God grant them many years!

Calendar and Your Feedback

Please visit our [interactive online calendar](#) on our website that allows you to view events at Trinity by week or month, and in a variety of formats. You can also print out the calendar in a way that works best for you. Please also email any input for the March Trinitarian to me before February 27. Cheers, [Pete](#) (your Trinitarian editor)

Schedule of Events

Every Sunday, Mass at 8am (spoken) and 10am (with music and church school during the service, followed by coffee hour in the Buchanan Building)

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

Sunday, February 2, Candlemas Celebration with induction of GFS member; Emergent Church education forum follows coffee hour

Trinity Lutheran Church, 200 N. 15th St., Philadelphia, PA 19103

Thursday, February 6, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church
Sunday, February 9, Emergent Church education forum follows coffee hour
Tuesday, February 11, GFS Meeting at 7pm in the Children's House
Thursday, February 13, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church
Sunday, February 16, Emergent Church education forum follows coffee hour
Thursday, February 20, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church
Sunday, February 23, Vestry Meeting after coffee hour in the Buchanan Building
Thursday, February 27, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church
Sunday, March 2, Mardi Gras luncheon follows the 10am service
Wednesday, March 5, Ash Wednesday, lent begins, liturgies at 10am (spoken) and 7pm (with music)

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