From the Rector

This year, for the first time in my life, I felt as though I was mourning the passing of summer. I have never before felt an emotion like this in relation to a season. Sure, as a kid I was sort of "bummed" to have to get back to school, but in all honesty, we were bored out of our skulls by late August, so a return to friends and routine wasn't all that bad. No, this year, I was truly sad to see summer slip away, so much so that on the day of the equinox, I went outside at 4:44 p.m. (the exact time of the change from summer to fall) and then remained to watch the sun go down. Maybe it was because we had such wonderful times with family and friends, or maybe it had something to do with that little voice in the back of my head saying, "You realize, don't you, that this is the last summer of your 30's..." Maybe, but I think it had a lot to do with the garden. This was the first year that we had a real vegetable garden: tomatoes, squash, watermelons, leeks, onions, okra, herbs, peppers, lettuces-it was quite bountiful and a true joy to work and reap the rewards. Despite the lingering warmth, at a certain point the plants are just done. They must be uprooted and the beds prepared for next year's crop. Seeing the beds bereft of anything green was truly depressing. It seemed so final.

But we gardeners are anything but defeatists. It has been said that the planting of a bulb in the fall is the ultimate act of optimism. So it is with my vegetable patch. It provided us with delicious fresh vegetables all summer, and the cellar is literally "jam" packed with pickles, preserves, jams and jellies that will serve as tasty reminders of summer's glory through the cold months ahead. Now is the time to put in the work of cultivating and amending the soil so that the promise of another bountiful summer will come to fruition.

Then it dawned on me that my garden is a lot like our church. It is a joy to participate in its life all year round, and it, too, has its seasons, liturgically and otherwise. We give to it in many different ways throughout the year, and it gives back to us. Now is the time, as with our gardens, that we turn our thoughts to stewardship and giving our earthly treasure back to God, so that our little patch will continue to bear much fruit throughout the coming year.

By now parishioners should have received pledge cards in the mail. Cards are also available in the church. Please consider prayerfully how much
are also available in the church. Please consider prayerfully how much Trinity means to you, fill out your pledge card, and bring it with you on Sunday, October 27, when we will celebrate the Harvest Thanksgiving and collect your pledges for the coming year. Of course our friends are always welcome to give their gifts by donating online or by sending in a check. Everything that you give is truly appreciated.

May God bless you and your gifts to his garden, Father Richard

**Bag Hunger**

September was National Hunger Action Month, a time when organizations across the country did their part to help fight hunger in their communities. On Wednesday, September 18, Father Richard joined with other clergy and community leaders in bagging groceries at the ShopRite at Oxford and Levick. Throughout the day, cashiers collected donations to help fill the shelves of local food banks.

**Baptism**

We welcomed Andrew Owen McConomy into the Body of Christ on September 22. Andrew is the son of Lance & Jennifer McConomy and grandson of longtime parishioner William McConomy. Please visit our website for pictures of the 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.

**Blessing of the Animals**

Due to our deanery commitments, we will delay our annual St. Francis Day blessing of the animals until Sunday, October 13. Please bring your pets to church (or a photograph if they don't travel well) and Fathers Richard & Don will bless them in the churchyard after the service. Please visit our website for pictures of last year's celebration.

**Church School Kickoff**

On Sunday, September 8, we celebrated Father Richard's fourth anniversary at Trinity and welcomed back all the children of the parish to our very popular Church School program. A festive picnic followed the 10am service. Please visit our website to see pictures of the event.

**Confirmation Class Forming**

Our last confirmation class is pictured here just after helping with a feeding ministry at St. Mark's Frankford. This year, children who will be 13 as of June 2014 are eligible to join our next confirmation class. Preparation
Sermons

Highlights of the Year Ahead

Kickoff Sunday
September 8

Church School Begins
Picnic after 10am Service
Sunday, September 29
Full Senior Choir Returns
Sunday, October 6
Deanery Celebration
Sunday, October 13
Animal Blessing

Harvest Sunday
October 27

All Saints Sunday
November 3

Saturday, November 9
Diocesan Convention
Remembrance Sunday
November 10

Sunday, December 15
Children's Pageant
Sunday, December 22
Lessons & Carols
Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve Services

Epiphany Sunday
January 5

Sunday, March 2
Mardi Gras Luncheon
Ash Wednesday
March 5
Palm Sunday
April 13

Maundy Thursday
April 17

Good Friday
April 18
Easter Sunday
April 20

Sunday, May 4
Choir Recognition
Sunday, May 18
Church School Ends
Pentecost Sunday
June 8

Daylight Saving Time Ends
Remember to "fall back" on Saturday, November 2, before you retire for the evening, or you will be one hour early for church on Sunday. If you are early, don't worry, we will find something for you to do!

Deanery Celebration

On October 6 at 11am, all parishes of our deanery will join together for a festive Eucharist and picnic at St. Mark's Frankford. Father Richard has been asked to celebrate the mass, Dean Nancy Deming will preach, our own Trinity Senior Choir will sing (choir call time 9:45am at St. Mark's), and the parish of La Iglesia de Cristo y San Ambrosio will be arranging the entertainment for the picnic. Please join us for this special occasion. Note that there will only be one service held at Trinity that Sunday, at 8am.

Transportation will be provided from Trinity to and from St. Mark's. The bus will depart from in front of the Buchanan Building at 10:15am, and there will be time for food and fellowship after the service before the bus returns to Trinity at 1:30pm.

Diocesan Convention

On Saturday, November 9, Pete Datos, Laurie Henry and Vicki Sayers will join Fathers Richard and Don in representing our parish at Diocesan Convention, which will be held at the Church of the Good Samaritan in Paoli.

Flea Market at Trinity

The Women of Trinity will host a Flea Market on Saturday, October 5, from 9am to 2pm in our parking lot behind the Gibbons PAL Center (Rising Sun & Longshore Avenues). Spaces are $10 each and no tables will be provided.

Halloween at Trinity

Last year, we hosted the Lantern Graveyard Tour and this year, we will open our facilities on October 31 from 6-9pm for all trick-or-treaters and their parents. Please join us in the Buchanan Building if you're not busy with your own Halloween plans. Please visit our website for photos and video of last year's Lantern Tour.

Memorials

A donation in memory of Gladys Laird was given by Dr. John and The Rev. Phyllis Taylor. A donation in memory
of Kathryn Rampson was given by Mrs. Berenice Glatthorn. May Gladys’ and Kathryn’s souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Music Ministry

On September 29, our full choir was welcomed back when they sang for the 10am Mass. We are looking forward to another exciting season of beautiful choral music. On October 6, our Senior Choir will sing for the Deanery liturgy at St. Mark’s, Frankford, at 11am. They will be presenting two anthems as well as the "Messe Breve" by Charles Gounod. We hope that many of our parishioners will be there to support our choir and represent Trinity Church Oxford. Bell Choir rehearsals, in preparation for Christmas, will start on Thursday, November 7, at 7:30pm. New members are always welcome. Please contact Mary Sampson for more information. Soli Deo Gloria! Mary G. Sampson, Organist/Choirmaster

Sermons on Demand

Did you skip church this summer and wonder what you missed? To find out, visit our website where the audio recordings of many sermons are available, along with the readings.

Stewardship

October is Stewardship Month. This is when we ask all members of Trinity Church 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. We ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your support for Trinity this month. On Sunday, October 27, we will ingather the pledges for the year during our Harvest Thanksgiving celebration. Please see Stewardship Chair Ray Grossmuller for more information.

United Thank Offering

Have you seen or heard of the "Blue Box"? The box has been distributed by the women of the Episcopal Church since the 1920’s as a United Thank Offering (UTO). 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 many daily blessings. A short prayer of thanksgiving leads to an offering in the "Blue Box." All offerings are used to support grants for ministries at home and overseas as an outreach of the Episcopal Church.
The “Blue Box” and UTO envelopes can be found on the sneeves near the font in the Church. Please bring your box, envelope, or check to Trinity on or before Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday, October 27. The ingathering of donations will take place at Diocesan Convention on November 9.

**Vestry Highlights**

At the last Vestry meeting, members of the Redevelopment Committee gave members of the Vestry details on the work they did over the summer months and fielded questions regarding the direction of the project. The remainder of the meeting involved routine business. A special meeting of the Vestry focused solely on the redevelopment project is scheduled for Saturday, October 5. Our next regularly scheduled Vestry meeting will be held on Sunday, October 27, after coffee hour in the Buchanan Building.

**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 November Trinitarian to me before October 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

Saturday, October 5, Women of Trinity Flea Market, from 9am to 2pm in the parking lot at Rising Sun and Longshore Avenues

Sunday, October 6, Deanery Service and Picnic, 11am at St. Mark's Frankford

Tuesday, October 8, Women of Trinity, noon to 2pm in the Buchanan Building

Sunday, October 13, Blessing of the Animals following each service, please bring your pets to church

Sunday, October 27, Harvest Thanksgiving (ingathering of stewardship pledges)

Sunday, October 27, Vestry Meeting after coffee hour in the Buchanan Building

Saturday, November 2, Parish Cleanup Day, meet at 9:30am in the Buchanan Building

Sunday, November 3, All Saints Sunday - Daylight Saving Time Ends

Thursday, November 7, Bell Choir Rehearsals begin, 7:30pm in the Church

Saturday, November 9, Diocesan Convention at The Church of the Good Samaritan in Paoli

**Her Majesty's Reaction to the Government Shutdown...**
Time to reclaim the colonies!