From the Rector

My Dear People,

As I write to you, we are in the midst of our early Lenten observances. In the liturgy for Ash Wednesday, our Prayer Book instructs us that, “The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting.”

From the earliest days of our faith, Christians have been very mindful of the centrality of the Easter message of resurrection in everything we do, all year long. Therefore, in order to greet the actual morning of the feast properly, and to be able to participate in its joys fully, we have also put a great emphasis on the weeks of preparation leading up to it.

Many people will ask you, “What are you giving up for Lent?” Some will give up chocolates, others alcohol, others meat on Fridays, you name it. These gestures of self-denial are intended to aid the one who is fasting in feeling some measure of the privation our Lord felt in his 40 days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness. But do they-can they—even begin to fulfill their intended outcome? Is this little more than window dressing?

People today are looking for authentic experiences. As a community of faith, let’s try to make our Lenten observance authentic by acting together in prayer, fasting, and alms giving. Last fall, Hurricane Sandy ravaged our area in unprecedented ways. Our next-door neighbors have lived in their house for over 30 years, and they told me that the five days we were without power was the longest they had ever experienced...and we were among the lucky ones. Many in our region are still trying to put their lives back together, almost half a year later. Therefore, as a church, let’s focus our prayer, fasting, and alms giving efforts on those affected by the storm.

In Prayer: we will pray, publicly and privately, for those affected and for those who continue to bring relief.

In Fasting and Alms Giving: Consider giving up a few little luxuries like that expensive cup of coffee or lunch in a restaurant, and put the money you would have spent into a mite box or envelope. We will collect this at Easter and give it to Episcopal Relief and Development's Sandy relief efforts.
Annual Meeting

May God grant you a blessed season of Lent. Father Richard

Our Annual Parish Meeting is coming up on April 7, so now is the time to think about investing yourself in a leadership role at Trinity. At the meeting, we will be electing three Vestry persons to serve, three delegates to Diocesan Convention in November, and three Pennypack Deanery Delegates. Vestry members must have been members of Trinity Church Oxford for at least two years. They must be regular in attendance at worship and pledge to the work of the church. The Vestry is an important ministry of leadership without which our parish simply could not function. Please prayerfully consider service on the Vestry, and pray for those who currently serve. Committee chairs, please submit your reports for the annual meeting by March 17 - a link to last year's full report may be found online. Nominations may be submitted to Dottie Orr or Nellie Duddy.

Daylight Saving Time

Remember to "spring ahead" on Saturday, March 9, before you retire for the evening or you will be one hour late for church on Sunday.

Easter Memorials

If you would like to contribute to the beautiful music and flowers that fill our church at Easter, envelopes are available in the church or you may send a check to the office no later than March 25. You may also contribute online via the donate button on the home page of our website. Please be sure to note the loved one in whose memory or thanksgiving the donation is given.

Hall of History

Please visit our Hall of History online to see more historical pictures of Trinity that have been recently scanned and uploaded. Our next display will feature pictures of the choir and memorabilia from Easters' past at Trinity. If you have any relevant pictures, please email them to our historian Mindy Weaver or drop them by the church office during Lent.

Lenten Learning

Each Sunday in Lent, we will have an educational forum during coffee hour discussing the topic Why does God allow suffering? Also, on Saturday, March 9, we will tour the Titanic Artifact Exhibit at the Franklin Institute. The theme will be Ministry Through Tragedy - Spiritual Heroes of the Titanic and our focus will be on the stories of the eight clergymen on board and their roles in ministering to the passengers and crew as their fate became apparent.

Website Resources

Calendar

History

Mission

Newsletter Archive

Photos

Sermons
Lenten Outreach
Please pick up a mite box or a Lenten offering envelope in the church and support this year's giving to Episcopal Relief & Development for Hurricane Sandy victims. Working in partnership with the worldwide Church, ecumenical agencies and local organizations, Episcopal Relief & Development saves lives and strengthens communities around the world.

Mardi Gras
On Sunday, February 10, the Buchanan Building was transformed into a Mardi Gras wonderland, where we all enjoyed jambalaya, king cake and chicory coffee while wearing beads and listening to New Orleans music. Father Richard told us about some Mardi Gras traditions and a good time was had by all. Please visit our website to see pictures of the festivities. Many thanks to all the folks who helped prepare the meal and congratulations to Paul Graf who found the lucky king cake baby!

Memorials
Anita Hallman, mother of Judy Maile, passed away on February 12 at the age of 88. She was buried at George Washington Memorial Park on February 16. May Anita's soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Music Ministry
As the season of Lent quickly comes to a close, our Senior Choir is preparing for the Holy Week and Easter liturgies. The choir will be singing special music for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Tenebrae on Good Friday. On Easter Sunday, both our Senior Choir and Brass Choir will present Festival Music during the 10am Mass, including works by G.F. Handel and Antonio Lotti. The traditional singing of "The Hallelujah Chorus" will take place near the end of the service.

Our Bell Choir has been preparing special music for the Lenten season to be performed on March 17 and the Senior Choir will be singing "A Celtic Blessing" at the Offertory. We invite everyone to experience the commemoration of Our Lord's Passion during Holy Week and the celebration of his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Soli Deo Gloria! Alleluia! Mary G. Sampson, Organist/Choirmaster

Special Recognition
Before the annual meeting starts on April 7, we will partake of a special luncheon that is being prepared in honor of the many years of service that Dottie Orr has given to this parish and the wider Church. Dottie has served as a delegate to the General Convention, member of the Diocesan Standing Committee, Vestry member, Rector's Warden, and for many years has been instrumental in the Girls' Friendly Society and Trinity's Church School program. Please join us in saying "thank you and God speed" to Dottie for a lifetime of service to God and the Church.
Vestry Highlights
At the February meeting, the Vestry discussed preparations for Holy Week and Easter, including our welcome for Bishop Lee on Palm Sunday. Chuck McGee reported on his discussions with our Community Service Officer about recent drug activity in the neighborhood, and the police intention to increase patrols of the property. The Vestry approved having the gutters and downspouts cleaned out, and discussed graveyard maintenance and replacing some of our lost trees with new ones using a gift from the Whitakers. Our next meeting is on Sunday, March 17, after coffee hour in the Buchanan Building.

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday
Holy Week commemorates the last week of the earthly life of Jesus as recorded in the Canonical gospels. It begins with Palm Sunday, March 24, where at both the 8am and 10am Mass, we will remember the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as well as the agony of the Passion that he was about to endure. The 10am service will feature a traditional procession and the reading of the Passion will include members of the congregation. Bishop Lee will celebrate at both services. Please visit our website for pictures of Holy Week from last year. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week, a simple Mass will be said daily at 10am in the church.

Maundy Thursday
On Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 7pm, we will commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus Christ in which he instituted the Holy Eucharist. After communion, the altar will be stripped by the acolytes and ceremonially washed to represent the tomb that will receive Christ's body on Good Friday. The reserved Sacrament will then be taken in procession to the Altar of Repose in the Buchanan Building, which will represent the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus asked his disciples "Could you not wait with me one hour?" The Buchanan Building will remain open until 10pm for silent prayer and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament.

Good Friday
Good Friday is the day we observe the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. In order to accommodate people's busy schedules, our service will begin at 7pm on Friday, March 29, and will blend the traditional Good Friday ceremony with the ancient service of Tenebrae (Latin for "shadows" or "darkness"), an evening service held during the Triduum (the last three days of Holy Week), where candles are gradually extinguished typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil, but then a loud noise, symbolizing the Resurrection, is made and the light of one candle, symbol of the Lord, guides the faithful to depart in silence.

The Good Friday Offering has been a source of support, love and hope for the people of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. This
is the 90th year that the National Church offers the opportunity to give our thanks and commitment to the church of Jerusalem as they continue to work toward justice, reconciliation and peace. Through our support of these churches we are helping to realize God's vision of peace throughout this area. More information about this ministry can be found online. Special envelopes will be available in church that day or you can send your offering to the church office and mark it for Good Friday Offering. You may also contribute online via the donate button on the home page of our website - please be sure to note GFO with your donation.

Easter Sunday

There will be two festive masses on Easter Sunday, March 31. The 8am mass will be a simple, yet joyful, spoken service. The 10am mass will include special music and feature a Brass Ensemble along with the Children’s and Senior Choirs. Following the 10am service, we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard for the children of the parish. Bring your own basket or we can provide you with a bag to collect your eggs. Remember to check your eggs for slips that let you know you can collect a prize! Please visit our website for pictures of last Easter’s festivities.

Calendar and Your Feedback

Please visit our new 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 April Trinitarian to me before March 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 (except January 6), Senior Choir rehearsal at 8:45am in the Buchanan Building

Wednesday, March 6, Traditional Holy Eucharist (spoken) at 10am in the Church

Saturday, March 9, Titanic Artifact Exhibit at the Franklin Institute, meet at 1pm at the group ticket desk

Sunday, March 10, The Fourth Sunday in Lent, Lenten Learning "Why does God allow suffering?" after coffee hour

Tuesday, March 12, Women of Trinity meeting at noon in the Buchanan Building

Wednesday, March 13, Traditional Holy Eucharist (spoken) at 10am in the Church

Sunday, March 17, The Fifth Sunday in Lent, Bell Choir rings during the 10am service, Lenten Learning & Vestry Meeting after coffee hour

Tuesday, March 19, Girls Friendly Society meeting at 7pm in the Children’s House

Wednesday, March 20, Traditional Holy Eucharist (spoken) at 10am in the Church

Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday, Bishop Lee celebrates at both the 8am (spoken) and 10am (with music) services

Monday, March 25, Traditional Holy Eucharist (spoken) at 10am in the Church

Tuesday, March 26, Traditional Holy Eucharist (spoken) at 10am in the Church
Wednesday, March 27, Traditional Holy Eucharist (spoken) at 10am in the Church

Wednesday, March 27, Brass rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Thursday, March 28, Maundy Thursday, liturgy at 7pm in the Church

Friday, March 29, Good Friday, service of Tenebrae at 7pm in the Church

Easter Sunday, March 31, Mass at 8am (spoken) and 10am (with festal music)

Sunday, April 7, Annual Meeting after the 10am service

Sunday, April 14, Easter Cantata featuring the senior choir during the 10am service