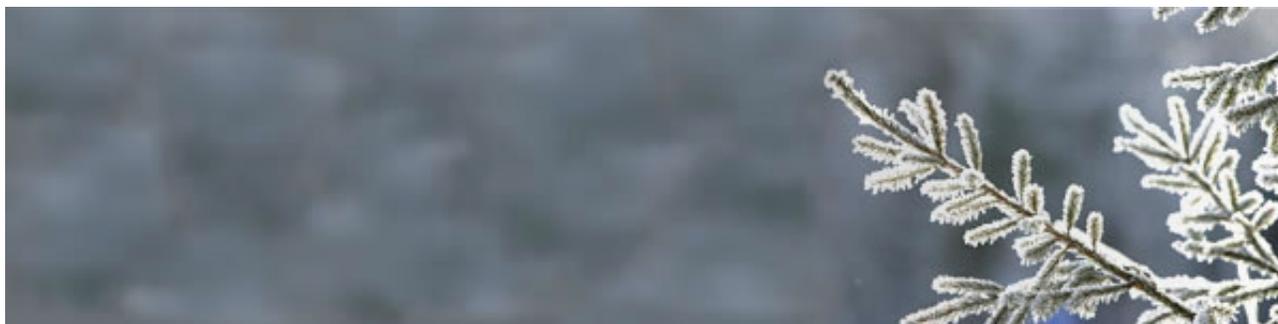


# The Trinitarian



News, Notes and Inspiration from Trinity Church Oxford

February 2013

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## From the Rector

My Dear People,

As I write this message to you, I am on the mend after a long week of battling a virus that gave me the full line-up of symptoms from the old TV commercial-sniffing, sneezing, coughing, aching, stuffy head, fever... My doctor tells me that it is just something I will have to wait out.

Scripture tells us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, and that we all, collectively, form the Church, which is the body of Christ. And what is our primary goal during Lent, if not to purify our temples for the reception of our risen Lord at Easter? Therefore, let's look at some symptoms and their remedies.

**Fever:** Like a bodily fever, the fever of life can be exhausting. The constant demands of work, family, and society can leave one physically exhausted and spiritually distracted. Try to reduce your fever by making intentional steps toward reducing your stress. Taking some personal time for activities like centering prayer, meditation, and physical exercise can do much to calm the soul and reorient.

**Congestion:** Breathing is something so routine that it usually happens without notice. But when the airway is obstructed, we'll try anything to get back to normal-ointments, hot showers, you name it... We know that the only path to health is to clear out the lungs, even though it may be a raw and painful process. Sin and negativity are the great congestors of our spiritual lungs. We begin the cleansing process with confession, but the difficult (and life-giving) grace comes with making amends with those whom we have offended, accepting others' apologies, and living lives of true repentance through the grace of God.

As we begin our Lenten journey once again, let us prepare to greet our risen Lord without shame or fear by committing ourselves to a holy and profitable season. Please make every effort to attend services on Sunday with your extended church family. Take advantage of our Bible study or field trip to the Franklin Institute. Do a good deed. Give to the relief of the poor. These are just a few ways to help us on our Lenten recuperation, as we, with the help of God, root out the sickness of our sins and daily increase in the health of our souls.

Blessings, Father Richard

## Our Staff

[The Rev. Richard Robyn.](#)

Sign up  
online for  
our free  
monthly  
email  
newsletter

[Rector](#)

The Rev. Don Graff,  
Priest Associate

Mary Sampson, M.A.,  
Organist/Choirmaster

[Chris Claypoole, Secretary](#)

Michael Pacillio, Sexton



### Ash Wednesday

According to the Gospels, 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 February 13 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.

### Our Vestry

[Dorothy Orr '13](#)  
[Rector's Warden](#)

Sarah Putterman '15,  
Accounting Warden

Nellie Duddy '13

Amy Furlong '15

Lynne Geliebter '15,  
Secretary

Lorraine Henry '15

Rose McClarin '14,  
Treasurer

Susan McConomy '15

Charles McGee '14

Victoria Sayers '14

Judith Williamson '15



### Duddys Celebrate 50 Years Together

On Sunday, January 27, we celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of Tom and Nellie Duddy at the 10am service. The happy couple renewed their vows and a festive reception followed in the Buchanan Building. Many thanks to Richard and Bobbie Siebert who gave the altar flowers and those who gave donations to Trinity in thanksgiving for the occasion (Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Duddy, Ms. B. A. McGee, and Mrs. Chris Claypoole).



### Girls Friendly Society

We celebrated GFS Week on February 3 with members of the society helping lead our worship and hosting coffee hour. GFS Week began in the late 1960's to make parishes more aware of the mission and ministry of the organization.



### Graduate

Congratulations to Patricia McGee (RN, MSN, MBA/HCA) who graduated in December from the University of Phoenix with a dual Masters degree! Patty has earned a Masters of Science in Nursing and a Masters in Business Administration with a concentration in Health Care Administration.

### Website Resources

[Calendar](#)

[History](#)

[Mission](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

[Photos](#)

[Sermons](#)



### Hall of History

Please visit our [Hall of History](#) online to see pictures of Trinity veterans (our previous historical display in the Buchanan Building). Our next display will feature pictures of the choir and memorabilia from Easter's 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.



### Hispanic Ministry

In recognition of the increasing Hispanic population in our neighborhood, the Vestry has authorized Father Richard to form a committee to explore how best we can serve this growing segment of our community. If you would like to help with this effort, please see Father Richard.



## Lantern Graveyard Tour

Please visit our website to see lots more pictures that we've posted of our [Lantern Graveyard Tour](#) last fall. Many thanks to Amy Sampson for all the spooky, fun pictures! Additional pictures have also been posted for [Lessons & Carols](#) as well as [Christmas Eve](#).



## Lenten Learning

Each Sunday in Lent beginning February 24, 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. Please join our forum and sign up in the church for the Titanic tour.



## 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 Party

On Sunday, February 10, bring your appetite and your carnival spirit to the Buchanan Building after the 10am service, where we will celebrate [Mardi Gras](#)! Enjoy jambalaya, king cake, chicory coffee, beads, jazz and more. Can you pronounce "Tchoupitoulas?" If not, don't worry, Fr. Robyn will give a brief talk on New Orleans culture. Laissez les bons temps roulez!

## Memorials



[Virginia Hudson](#), sister of Cynthia McCracken, and aunt and godmother of Pam McCracken and Ginny Hopkins, died on January 11 at the age of 84. Barbara Pierre died on January 24 at the age of 84. Father Robyn officiated at Barbara's Philadelphia funeral on January 28 - she was buried the

following Friday in her home of Trinidad. Many thanks to her daughter Judith Pierre for her donation to Trinity's music memorial fund. May Virginia's and Barbara's souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



## Music Ministry

Bell Choir rehearsals will resume on February 7 and they will be playing at the 10am service on February 24. The Senior Choir has already been practicing for our Lenten and Holy Week services. Please join me in welcoming our two new section leaders - Brittany Cusack, alto, and Edgar Mariano, tenor. Stay tuned for more news from our Music Ministry next month. Soli Deo Gloria!



### **Provisional Bishop Elected**

On Saturday, January 12, 2013 at a Special Convention held at Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, The Right Reverend Clifton D. Daniel was elected Provisional Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania by unanimous consent. Provisional Bishops are elected for a specific period of time; in this instance for two years or until the election of a Bishop Diocesan. The Cathedral was filled to capacity for the Special Convention - please visit the diocesan website to [read Bishop Daniel's remarks](#). It is with hope and prayers that the new Provisional Bishop of Pennsylvania has been received as the people of the diocese look toward the future with a renewed eagerness and sense of unity of purpose in our shared ministry in Christ.



### **Reflection for Lent**

Many years ago, I heard a professor of religious studies in Orthodox Christianity at the University of Virginia, talk about Lent and Easter. Every Lenten season, I recall the essentials of his talk. He spoke about gardening, Lent and Easter.

I became a vegetable gardener several years ago. I find it relaxing and refreshing. The smell of the dirt, the fresh air, the quiet and the tactile way of getting in touch with God's creation all resonate with me. Your senses come alive in the garden. For me my senses come alive frequently in church as well. The music, the tastes of the Eucharist and in some parishes, the smells of incense.

To me preparing my garden and Lent have many similarities. The winter season is nearly gone and in the garden I'm preparing the earth. I'm digging down deep and rooting out old growth and dead plants. It's not particularly fun and it's messy. And it reminds me of Lent when we are being introspective and digging down deep to root out what is old and needs to be replaced and refreshed. During Lent I make a bi-annual confession (or reconciliation). For me this is the digging down deep and inward cleaning as I prepare my soul for Easter. I also try to select some type of spiritual reading during Lent that prepares my mind as well as my soul.

As the weeks pass and we approach Easter or enter Easter, I am generally planting my vegetables, watering them and watching over them. As the year progresses, I have a tangible result from my work. I can see my efforts, I can taste them and certainly for my herb garden I can smell them. I sometimes will just sit near the herbs and rub them in my fingers for their wonderful smell. Each year the process is repeated, but it is no less amazing.

Easter brings a renewal and a refreshing in the church and me as well. It is after a period of examination and we find that although Christ was crucified, we celebrate his amazing resurrection. There is life after death and a celebration of renewal. Many churches renew or read their baptismal vows as a reminder that there is a dying to all that is old and dead and an celebration of God's new life. I find that that too brings a tangible result in my life and reminds me of the good news of the Gospel. We must be the hands and feet of God.

I hope that all of you experience Lent and Easter with your mind and your soul and all of your senses. Go out and get your hands dirty!

Peace and all good, Phil Geliebter, Deacon in training



## Souper Bowl Sunday

On Sunday, February 3, we 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 2012, nearly \$10 million was raised with 10,467 churches and organizations participating in this project. The Souper Bowl began in the early 1990's and has raised over \$81 million to feed the hungry and aid in national and international disasters.



## Wednesdays in Lent

Beginning February 27, we will celebrate the Holy Eucharist in the traditional manner during Lent each Wednesday morning at 10am in the Church. All are welcome!

## 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 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 (except January 6), Senior Choir rehearsal at 8:45am in the Buchanan Building

Sunday, February 3, GFS Sunday

Sunday, February 10, Mardi Gras Luncheon in the Buchanan Building after the 10am service; special meeting of the Vestry follows

Wednesday, February 13, Ash Wednesday, lent begins, liturgies at 10am (spoken) and 7pm (with music)

Thursday, February 21, Property Committee meeting at 7pm in the church office

Sunday, February 24, Lenten Learning "Why does God allow suffering?" in the Children's House after coffee hour

Sunday, February 24, Vestry Meeting after the 10am service

Wednesday, February 27, Traditional Holy Eucharist (spoken) at 10am in the Church

Saturday, March 9, Titanic Artifact Exhibit at the Franklin Institute, time TBD

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

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)

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