In This Issue

From the Rector

Blessing of the Animals
Canning Class
Church School
Deacon Update
Deanery Dinner
Girls Friendly Society
Immanuel Invitation
Memorial
Music Ministry
Rembrandt Exhibit
September 11th
Society of Catholic Priests
Stewardship
United Thank Offering
Vestry Highlights
Women of Trinity

Our Staff
The Rev. Richard Robyn, Rector
Mary Sampson, M.A., Organist/Choirmaster
Chris Claypoole, Secretary
Michael Pacilio, Sexton

Our Vestry
Dorothy Orr, Rector's Warden

Judith Maile, Accounting Warden
John Annand
Nellie Duddy
Lynne Geliebter
Rose McClarin
Pamela McCracken
Charles McGee

From the Rector

My Dear People,

Stewardship - what is it all about? The first thing that probably pops into your mind is our annual pledge appeal. This has been going on in one form or another since our parish was founded, and I need not tell you how important it is. In looking back through the vestry minutes of the early nineteenth century, I discovered that at one point in time, the vestry decided that the parishioners were not contributing what they should, and so they levied assessments on all of them based on what they thought each family was worth. One has to admire their moxy, but I imagine that everyone prefers the more discreet and prayerful method we use today.

That being said, finance is only one aspect of stewardship, which is a year-round endeavor. This year, I invite you to consider these words of our Lord: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also," [Matthew 6:21] and put them into the context of our Baptismal Covenant [BCP p. 305-306]. The first three questions in the covenant ask what you believe; the following five questions ask how you are going to take what you believe and use it to glorify God and serve others.

While considering your financial stewardship of this parish this month, think not only of our cherished buildings and hallowed grounds, but consider also our commission to spread the Gospel and to baptize, as well as to seek and serve God by serving others—all of which require material resources. Please pray about this, and share with me your hopes and dreams for new ways of showing God's abundant love to our community and to ourselves.

Blessings, Father Richard

Blessing of the Animals

We will observe the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday, October 9, with a traditional blessing of the animals in the churchyard after the 10am service. Please bring your pets to church (or a photograph if they don't travel...
It's coming up to Stewardship Campaign time and I was wondering how many of you remember when the pledge envelopes had two money pockets? One side was for Current Expenses which went towards Trinity's cost of maintaining the grounds and buildings, employee salaries, utilities, insurance, etc. The other side or pocket was for Missions. Money put in this side went towards our Outreach, and the Diocesan programs and missions. There were also Sunday School envelopes that each child received and used for their offering. It really hasn't been all that long since we went to the single compartment envelopes. The double envelopes were still being used on my first tour of duty on the Vestry in the late 1980s and early 1990s. When my Father served on the Vestry in the 1960s and '70s, the procedure was for one Vestryman (yes, men only served) to bring the offering home with them to count and afterward deposit it in the bank. For safety and security that practice has ended. I remember Dad would make Martie and me help him "count" which would, in effect, kill a good Sunday afternoon. There would be piles of envelopes and cash all over the dining room table as he organized it well). Members of Father's "other flock" will be on hand for the festivities! Please visit our website for pictures of last year's celebration.

Canning Class

On Kickoff Sunday, September 18, a small group gathered in the old Parish Hall kitchen for an introductory canning class. We made 51 jars of Blueberry Jam and 30 jars of Bread & Butter Pickles - and had a lot of fun in the process. A new skill was learned and we shared our bounty with the Simple Way and parishioners, who report that both the jam and pickles are yummy! Please visit our website for pictures of the team hard at work with all burners ablaze.

Church School

On Kickoff Sunday, September 18, our very popular Church School program welcomed back all children of the parish. On October 2, our first Family Sunday of the school year, the children participated actively in all parts of the service. During October, in addition to their regular lessons, the children will be preparing something special for our All Saints celebration on November 6. We are fortunate to have a growing program that spans pre-school through high school and are in need of another teacher to help with our pre-schoolers. If you are able and feel called to this important ministry, please contact the church office, or see Lorie Henry or Dottie Orr at church.

Deacon Update

I am nearing the end of my first year as a postulant. I will be continuing my social service internship at St Mark's Frankford until December. It has been a wonderful experience. They have a much needed ministry, "dining with dignity" that serves meals on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Father Jon is a great person to work with and he has a number of dedicated parishioners and volunteers that support him. The NECH (northeast committee on homelessness) which runs the meal program is made up of various religious organizations throughout the northeast and suburban area.

To help round out my social service hours I did 40 hours one week at the Seamen's Church Institute in Port Newark, NJ. This is a very necessary ministry that serves seafarers, and port workers in Newark and New York. I believe it is little known or appreciated by the church as a whole, but they do an outstanding job ministering to the world. Every day they are visiting ships and speaking with men and women from countries and cultures from across the globe. While I was there we visited numerous ships that included oil tankers, freighters and container ships. We were even on a huge car carrier from Sweden (the inside looked like an aircraft carrier) - this photo above was taken with the chief cook and an officer cadet aboard the Aida which is from Stockholm. Their crew was made up of...
it. Then you would have to add everything up on paper as the family didn’t own an adding machine. Hand held calculators weren’t invented until 1965 and when they first came on the market cost $1000 or more. And of course, there were no personal computers at that time. So the two or three of us would add the same column of numbers and pray that we all got the same result. It is SO much easier now.

Mindy Weaver

Swedish and Filipino seafarers. I also helped one day with unloading hundreds of homemade knit wool hats, scarves, socks and boots. These are knit by people across the country (from Alaska to Hawaii) for the Christmas at Sea program. Seafarers and river mariners (Mississippi) are supplied warm handmade items for Christmas. My uncle was a lifelong merchant seaman who remembered these gifts fondly.

Next year I will by starting CPE (clinical pastoral education). This program trains individuals to become hospital chaplains. It is a mixture of classroom and practical application in a hospital or clinical setting. As always, thank you for your prayers. Peace and all good, Phil

Deanery Dinner
Please join with other members of our deanery on Tuesday, November 1 (the Feast of All Saints) at 6:30pm at Holy Innocents St. Paul's Church (7001 Torresdale Avenue) for a lasagna dinner followed by a service to remember our departed loved ones at 7:30pm.

Girls Friendly Society
The GFS chapter at Trinity held its first meeting of the school year on Tuesday, October 4, and members helped plan our program for this current year. We invite all girls who are at least five years old to join our GFS Branch. We meet on Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 8:30pm in the Children's House. If you would like to bring a friend, we would be happy for them to join our group. GFS is a worldwide organization that welcomes girls age 5 through 21 to join in a program of worship, study, outreach and fellowship. Please contact Dottie Orr for more information.

Immanuel Lutheran Invitation
Our neighbors at Immanuel Lutheran Church have invited us to their annual Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner (hot dogs available too) which will take place on November 12 from 4 to 7pm, and will feature German music by accordionist Don Bitterlich. Tickets are $12 for adults, $6 for children, and will be available at the door. Immanuel is located at 1013 Cottman Street. Please call (215) 342-8203 if you have any questions.

Memorial
Deborah A. McConomy died at home, surrounded by family and friends, on Monday, September 26, at the age of 57. Her funeral took place on October 1 at Trinity. Debbie was accompanied by an honor guard from the Philadelphia Police force, with whom she served for many years. May Debbie's soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Donations were given by John and Lois Annand, John and Maureen Lee, and Kelly Kupillas in loving memory of Debbie.

Music Ministry

Our Senior Choir is off to a great start! They were joined by our section leaders on October 2, and it was great to see and hear everyone at the 10am Eucharist. New members are very welcome, and now is a good time to try us out.

We are in need of new Junior Choristers. Some of our former members have grown up or moved away. Grades 1 through 8 are eligible to be a part of this ministry. This is an opportunity for your child to have free music lessons, a chance to participate in the Sunday liturgies, and learn more about God and his church. Rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings immediately after Sunday School in the church choir room. We even provide snacks!

And finally, we are preparing for our first Bell Choir Rehearsal next month on November 10. We also need a few more ringers to cover all of the bells. The ability to read music is not necessary, but helpful. The Bell Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm and will be preparing music for the Christmas season.

A special “thank you” is extended to John and Lois Annand for their generous donation to our music program. It has enabled us to buy new choir folders and sheet music. Please speak to Mary Sampson if you would like to help with any aspect of our music program. Your help and support is always appreciated. SOLI DEO GLORIA! Mary Sampson, Organist/Choirmaster

Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus

On Sunday, September 25, a group from Trinity explored the Rembrandt exhibit at The Philadelphia Museum of Art. This exhibit is the museum's first collaboration with the Louvre and the first time these portraits of Jesus have been reassembled since they were in the artist's studio in the 17th century. The exhibit continues through October 30 and we recommend it as a good opportunity to learn more about the artist and how religious art has evolved over the centuries.

September 11th

The tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11th was commemorated at Trinity with special prayers and music, along with the tolling of our bell and moments of silence. The readings that day, along with Father Richard’s sermon, challenged us all to think hard about how we respond to tragedy and the concept of forgiveness. Ten years ago, Trinity responded
with a mission trip to ground zero that was profoundly moving for all who participated - please check out our display in the Buchanan Building or visit our website for pictures and an article about the trip.

**Society of Catholic Priests**

At the end of September, Father Richard traveled to Christ Church Detroit to attend the third annual meeting of the Society of Catholic Priests (SCP) in the Episcopal Church. A talk on the sacrament of reconciliation was delivered by the Most Reverend Frank Griswold (pictured), former Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, who also celebrated a solemn high mass at which Father Richard served as thurifer. A fascinating presentation on the Sanctus hymn was given by the Reverend Erika Takacs, Associate Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. The SCP was formed to help all clergy (men and women) flourish as priests in the Catholic Tradition and to encourage spiritual growth and Catholic Evangelism. They come together, united by their belief in God's action through the Sacraments and Christ's presence in Eucharist, embracing one another as colleagues in the same church.

**Stewardship**

October is Stewardship month. This is when we ask 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 work and maintenance of our Parish community and buildings. Each and every one of us will receive a letter asking us to prayerfully consider our support of Trinity this year and our investment in its future. In addition, there will be a brief presentation on the cost of doing God's work in our community and maintaining a 300 year old worship space on October 16 at both services. October 23 will be our annual Stewardship presentation, and on October 30 we will ingather the pledges for the year during our Harvest Thanksgiving service. We hope you will join us for these important conversations. Mindy Weaver, Stewardship Chair

**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 shelves near the font. Please bring your box, envelope, or check to Trinity on or before Harvest Sunday, October 23. The ingathering of donations will take place
Vestry Highlights
At our September meeting, the vestry reviewed our 2011 finances and began preparing for our 2012 budget. As a part of that process, we set a date to meet with our Merrill Lynch financial advisor to discuss our investment strategy. We also accepted a bid from Goodson Painting to paint and repair some of the wood trim on the Jansen Building. Additionally, we set a date to meet with the Rector and Vestry of St. Mark's Frankford, to choose a site in the churchyard for the planting of a flowering cherry tree, which they will give us to commemorate the 300th anniversary of our church building, and which will serve as a visible symbol of the deep and abiding friendship that exists between our two parishes.

On Saturday, September 24, the Rector and Vestry met in retreat at St. John's Church, Huntingdon Valley. After appointing members to various committees, we were led in meditations on prayer by the Rev. Canon Mariclair Partee of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, PA.

Our next Vestry meeting is on Monday, October 17, at 7pm in the Buchanan Building.

Women of Trinity
The first meeting for the Women of Trinity will be held on Tuesday, October 11, at noon in the Buchanan Building. All ladies of the parish are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Nellie Duddy by email or phone at (215) 745-3739.

Calendar and Your Feedback
Please visit the 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 by 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, Junior Choir rehearsal after church in the Choir Room

Sunday, October 2, Family Sunday

Tuesday, October 4, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Children's House

Saturday, October 8, Parish Clean Up Day at 9:30am

Sunday, October 9, St. Francis Day (observed) with blessing of the animals after the 10am service

Tuesday, October 11, Women of Trinity meeting at noon in the Buchanan Building
Thursday, October 13, Property Committee meeting at 7pm in the Church Office

Monday, October 17, Vestry Meeting at 7pm in the Buchanan Building

Tuesday, October 18, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Children's House

Sunday, October 30, Harvest Thanksgiving / Stewardship Sunday

Tuesday, November 1, Deanery Dinner & All Saints Service at 6:30pm at Holy Innocents St. Paul's Church, 7001 Torresdale Avenue, Philadelphia

Sunday, November 6, Family Sunday and All Saints Celebration at Trinity

Thursday, November 10, first Bell Choir rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church