As I write this column, we are approaching the fourth Sunday in Lent, which means Holy Week and Easter will soon be here. Throughout Lent, we try our best to take on an added level of personal and spiritual discipline in order to examine ourselves and to put our inward houses in order for the coming of our resurrected Lord. This requires a certain level of austerity and self-denial, two things that most of us struggle with.

In order to ease the burden a bit, the Church relaxes our Lenten discipline somewhat on the fourth Sunday in Lent. It goes by several names, such as "Rose Sunday," "Laetare Sunday," "Refreshment Sunday," and "Mothering Sunday," just to mention a few. Liturgically speaking, rose color can be used for the priest's vestments as well as altar hangings, etc. to visually lift the mood from the somber violet that is used during the rest of the season. "Laetare" or "rejoice" comes from the introit (entrance song) of the old rite. "Rejoice ye with Jerusalem; and be glad for her, all ye that delight in her: exult and sing for joy with her, all ye that in sadness mourn for her; that ye may nurse, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations." Also, in the lectionary of the 1928 Prayer Book, the Epistle appointed for this Sunday is from Galatians, and uses more imagery of Jerusalem as "mother of us all." This was also a day when people would travel to their "mother church"—usually the local cathedral—for services. Today, pretty much all that is left of these traditions is the secular celebration of Mothers' Day in the UK. However, this day is still a useful time to consider that Lent lasts only two more weeks, and now is the time to really stick with those Lenten resolves!

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 17. Particulars about services and times can be found elsewhere in this newsletter; suffice it to say that there will be numerous opportunities to join your parish family and the wider Church in worshipping and following our Lord on His way to Calvary during that week. I hope that you will make every effort to attend as many services as you can. And please, invite a friend, family member, co-worker or neighbor to attend with you, especially on Easter Sunday, April 24.

I wish you all a spiritually profitable remainder of Lent, and a joyous Easter morn.

Blessings, Fr. Robyn
Many thanks to Tom Duddy for providing us with a subscription to "The Joyful Noiseletter" a resource whose aim is to recapture the spirit of joy, humor, unity and healing power of the early Christians. Please stay tuned for future fun times.

"I have noticed spring pays little attention to the manufacturers of calendars. She strolls into town when she's ready and not a moment sooner."

-- Philip Gulley

Continuing our look at monarchs who ruled during the colonial days of Trinity Church Oxford...

George I (28 May 1660 - 11 June 1727) was King of Great Britain and Ireland from 1 August 1714 until his death, and ruler of Hanover in the Holy Roman Empire from 1698.

George was born in Hanover, in what is now Germany, and eventually inherited the title and lands of the Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg. A succession of European wars expanded his German domains during his lifetime, and in 1708 he was ratified as prince-elector of Hanover. At the age of 54, after the death of Queen Anne of Great Britain, George ascended the British throne as the first monarch of the House of Hanover. Although over fifty Catholics bore closer blood relationships to Anne, the Act of Settlement 1701 prohibited Catholics from

and we are planning to celebrate with a Neighborhood Picnic & Open House on Sunday, June 12 (Pentecost); a Community Evensong on Friday, June 17; and a parish celebration with confirmations on June 19 (Trinity Sunday). During this time, we are planning for a historical exhibit in the Buchanan Building; a podcast tour of the church and graveyard created by our confirmation class; a publicity campaign to build neighborhood & city-wide awareness; and commemorative items for parishioners & visitors. Please see related articles below for more information and join us at our next planning meeting on Tuesday, May 3, at 7pm in the Buchanan Building.

Acolyte Rehearsal
There will be a rehearsal for all acolytes on Saturday, April 16 at 10:30am in the church, followed by a pizza lunch. Please notify Father Richard or Phil Geliebter if you will not be attending. All acolytes must be present to review the special rites involved with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, etc. It is also an opportunity to get fitted for a larger vestment if needed.

Annual Meeting
The annual meeting of Trinity Church Oxford will take place on Sunday, April 10, after the 10am service. At the meeting, we will be electing: four Vestry persons to serve 3-year terms, one Vestry person to serve a 1-year term, three delegates to Diocesan Convention in November 2011, and three Pennypack Deanery Delegates for a 1-year term. Vestry members must be confirmed Episcopalians at least 21 years of age who 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. Vestry members are expected to serve on at least one committee in addition to participating in the regular monthly meeting. The Vestry is a very 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. Nominations may be submitted to John Annand, Nellie Duddy, Lorie Henry or Melinda Weaver.

Camping Retreat
The confirmation class camping retreat will be from May 6 to May 8 at Parvin State Park in Pittsgrove, New Jersey. More details will be available soon. The class of ten young people are preparing for their confirmation by Bishop Lee here at Trinity on Sunday, June 19. Preparations are also taking place on Sundays during the 10am service and it is important that each class member attend weekly.

Community Evensong
On Friday, June 17, at 7pm we will officially celebrate the 300th anniversary of our church building with a community evensong followed by a festive reception. Bishop Bennison will be presiding, with local civic and religious leaders in attendance. We will also be recognizing our founding parish (Christ Church Philadelphia) along with the many area parishes that were founded by our own church. Please plan to join us for this historic
inheriting the British throne. George, however, was Anne’s closest living Protestant relative. In reaction, the Jacobites attempted to depose George and replace him with Anne’s Catholic half-brother, James Francis Edward Stuart, but their attempts failed.

During George’s reign the powers of the monarchy diminished and Britain began a transition to the modern system of cabinet government led by a prime minister. Towards the end of his reign, actual power was held by Sir Robert Walpole, Great Britain’s first de facto prime minister. George died on a trip to his native Hanover, where he was buried.

The tradition of the choral Evensong dates back to the very foundation of the Church of England in 1549. The founders of the Church of England, in rebelling against the Roman Church, decided they didn’t need eight offices (or prayers), but that the office was still important. They took Vespers and Compline and conflated them into one service called Evening Prayer which, when sung, is called Evensong.

Deacon Update
My diaconal studies continue and for our class I have led both Morning Prayer with homily and a short “parish presentation” on Franciscan spirituality. I have been working with the Thrift store, the food cupboard and the youth group at The Free Church of St John. I have also been working to co-ordinate their resources with other Christian ministries in Kensington. This has given me the opportunity to meet a number of other people who are working very hard with the residents in this area of Philadelphia. One of the groups is The Simple Way. I often attend their Morning Prayer before going to work in Kensington. On Sunday, April 3, Father Richard has asked me to speak on the readings at Trinity. Peace, Phil

Diocesan Meetings at Trinity
In March, we hosted Diocesan Council and Diocesan Mission Planning Commission meetings here at Trinity. Several participants commented on our gracious hospitality and the beauty of our historic parish, which some were visiting for the first time. Father Richard is a member of the Diocesan Mission Planning Commission, which was formed by Convention in 2009 to work for reconciliation among members of the diocese and study ways to affirm and improve how congregations live out the mission of the diocese.

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 April 18. You may also contribute online via the donate button on the home page or our website. Please be sure to note the loved one in whose memory or thanksgiving the donation is made.

GFS Service Project
Girls Friendly Society members will be making bags of Easter goodies for the children at the St. Francis Inn. We ask for your help in bringing a bag of wrapped Easter candies to Church on April 10. GFS members will fill the bags in the Children’s House at their meeting on April 12.

Holy Week and Easter at Trinity
Holy Week commemorates the last week of the earthly life of Jesus as recorded in the Canonical gospels. It begins with Palm Sunday, April 17, 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 the Bell Choir, a traditional procession, and the reading of the Passion which will include members of the congregation. Please visit our website for pictures of last year's service. 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, April 21, 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 Gethsemen, 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
According to ancient tradition, our Lord was crucified on a Friday at noon and died at 3pm. With this in mind, our Good Friday observance will begin at noon on Friday, April 22 in the church. At this service, we read the Passion of Christ, venerate the wood of the cross, and receive communion from the Blessed Sacrament consecrated the night before.

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 89th 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 at www.episcopalchurch.org/gfo. Special envelops 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 Vigil
The Great Vigil of Easter is traditionally held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day. It is considered by many to be the official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus and the most important Mass of the liturgical year, since Christian tradition considers feasts to begin at sunset of the previous day. We will not be holding a Vigil this year at Trinity as
we've decided to focus our resources on other events, but we may try it again in future years. Please visit our website for pictures of last year's Vigil. This year, Father Richard will be assisting Canon Reid with Easter Vigil at Saint Clement's and you are most welcome to attend. The service will begin at 4pm on Saturday, April 23, and the church is located on 20th Street in downtown Philadelphia between Appletree and Cherry Streets.

**Easter Sunday**
There will be two festive masses on Easter Sunday. 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.

**Invitation from Our Neighbor**
Immanuel Lutheran Church is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and invites the parishioners of Trinity Church Oxford to a free concert on Sunday, May 1, at 3pm featuring the Lancaster British Brass Band. You are also welcome to attend the annual Ham Dinner with Jazz on Saturday, April 30, from 4pm to 7pm, featuring the jazz combo Ted Newell and Friends. Tickets for the dinner are $12 for adults ($6 for children under 12) and may be purchased from Immanuel's office at (215) 342-8203 or at the door. Immanuel Lutheran is located at 1013 Cottman Avenue.

**Lenten Cantata**
Each year during Lent, our music program presents a Lenten Cantata to help parishioners reflect on the season. Many thanks to Mary Sampson, our organist & choirmaster, and the members of the senior choir, for a beautiful performance of Requiem by David Huff on Sunday, March 27. Please visit our website for more information about the music program at Trinity.

**Lenten Offering**
On Sunday, April 10, we will hear from a speaker with the ecumenical Christian group The Simple Way which is based in Kensington. Our Lenten offering this year will be raising funds for this group to send neighborhood kids to a Christian camp in the Stroudsburg area for a week this summer. They have received grant monies so a full week will only cost $120 per child. Many of these children have never left the city borders! The Simple Way also hands out hundreds of care packages to neighborhood kids with school supplies to start the new school year and has established parks and green areas in their section of Kensington. Please remember to turn in your Lenten mite boxes before Easter. You may also contribute online.
Lenten Service Project
The confirmation class invites all member of Trinity to join them on Saturday, April 2 as we prepare and serve lunch at St. Mark’s Frankford soup kitchen. The group from Trinity that participated in this effort last year found it very rewarding. We will meet in the parking lot of Trinity at 9:30am and leave for St. Mark's shortly afterward - please let Father Richard or Dottie Orr know if you plan to attend.

Memorials
Mrs. Doris E. Crawford entered into rest on March 17 at the age of 89 and was interred at Ivy Hill Cemetery on March 22.

Mrs. Doris Taylor entered into rest on March 22 at the age of 89 and was interred in the parish churchyard on March 26.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Mother Megan
I would like to thank the Reverend Megan Sanders of the Seamen’s Church Institute for celebrating & preaching on Sunday, March 6, while Pete and I were visiting my old hometown of New Orleans. Mother Megan is a good friend and fellow graduate of The General Theological Seminary. She very much enjoyed her time with everyone at Trinity and will be returning on May 8 while I am at the camping retreat with the confirmation class. Father Richard

Neighborhood Picnic
On Pentecost, June 12, after the 10am service, we will host a neighborhood picnic and open house to celebrate the 300th anniversary of our church building and give our neighbors a chance to get to know us a little better. The casual event will include a family picnic, fun things for kids, and a chance for people to check out the church building, the graveyard, and the historical exhibit in the Buchanan Building.

Relics Requested
Our church building's 300th anniversary is fast approaching. We will be opening our doors even wider to welcome our neighbors in for a visit. We want to display photos and artifacts from our 300 years in the neighborhood. Do you have any old or unique photos or items of Trinity or of the surrounding neighborhood? Maybe you have a picture from the Summer Bible Schools held in the Parish House, a YPF Bubble Bounce, a picture of Oxford Ave before
Bubble Bounce, a picture of Oxford Ave before it was paved, or the houses on Longshore being built? Or maybe you have an old monthly newsletter, Sunday School workbook, Oyster-Ham dinner ticket, or Sunday bulletin? If you do and would be willing to lend it for the celebration, please provide a description of the item to Mindy Weaver. Do NOT bring the item in at this point. We will use items from the Parish Archives but would also like to display unique items not found there. If we decide to use your item, arrangements will be made to obtain it closer to the celebration. Please visit the Hall of History on our website to see some historic photos of Trinity Church Oxford.

Vestry Highlights
At the March meeting, the Vestry awarded a contract to JLC Construction to repair the floor of the gymnasium in the Parish House and a contract to Oehler Masonry to repair another section of the cemetery wall along Oxford Avenue. Please also note that in March a four year contract was signed with the Police Athletic League (PAL) to continue using the gymnasium and ball fields (PAL has been at Trinity since 1969). On March 25, Father Richard hosted a Vestry Appreciation dinner at the Union League to thank the Vestry for all their hard work during the past year - a good time was had by all! The next Vestry meeting will be on Monday, April 11, at 7pm in the Buchanan Building.

Wednesdays in Lent
Many believe that America thrives on a simple message—that what we currently have is not enough. Not big enough, not nice enough, not fast or hip enough. The American Dream is based on wanting more. But does God's dream for the world look like the American Dream? In this Lenten program, called the Economy of Love, unpack what the patterns of God's kingdom look like compared to the patterns of our world. What is the value of enough, and how do we become more like the God who is close to the poor, the hungry, the meek, and the merciful? The Economy of Love will challenge us to join in community, journeying together as we begin to consider a new standard of living—a personal economic threshold oriented not around the size of a monthly paycheck, but around the value of enough. Please join us each Wednesday in Lent from 6:30pm to 8pm in the Buchanan Building for a pot-luck supper and this important program. We will also have a midweek mass each Wednesday in Lent at 10am in the Church.

Women of Trinity
The ladies will be making fans to be used in the church during the hot summer months at their next meeting on Tuesday, April 12, at noon. Also, they will be holding a flea market on Saturday, May 14, from 9am to 2pm in the parking lot behind the Parish House - spaces will be $10 each - come out, buy a space, meet our neighbors, and shop for bargains! For more information, please contact Nellie Duddy.

Youth Group
The Youth Group is planning a mission trip for
The Youth Group is planning a mission trip for August 12-14 to the St. Francis Inn in Kensington. We will be putting our “faith into action” working alongside the Franciscan friars, sisters, staff and volunteers as we serve the people of Kensington. If you know of a high school age student who may be interested in joining the group, please speak to Emily or Phil Geliebter, or visit the Youth Group page on our website.

April Calendar and Your Feedback

Using Google Calendars, we’ve created a 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 check out this new feature, post the calendar on you refrigerator or somewhere handy, and let me know what you think about it. Please also email any input for May’s Trinitarian to me by Tuesday, April 26. Cheers, Pete (your Trinitarian editor)

Just for fun...

Forward email

This email was sent to peter.datos@gmail.com by info@trinitychurchoxford.org | Update Profile/Email Address | Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe™ | Privacy Policy.

Trinity Church Oxford | 6901 Rising Sun Avenue | Philadelphia | PA | 19111