



The Trinitarian

News, Notes, and Inspiration from Trinity Church, Oxford



~An Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Pennsylvania~



My Dear People,
Are you expecting houseguests this holiday season? Perhaps your kids are com-

ing home from college, or your parents are visiting from out of state.

In any case this season involves a great deal of preparation. You must make a grocery list and check it twice—you're bound to forget something. This is the time of year when cherished family recipes come out of little wooden boxes and flimsy, well-worn, old cookbooks. There is your gift list—the pressure is on to find something special for everyone on your list, even those who are impossible to shop for, like me!

Then there are the many concerts and seasonal activities on offer. Are you planning on attending one of the myriad singings of Handel's *Messiah*? Or, are you taking the grandkids to New York City to see the Radio City Rockettes kick up their heels?

Oh, and don't forget the tree!

You must find the perfect specimen and get it, and your house, nicely decorated. (It takes me a week to put up our tree.)

All of this stuff is a lot of fun, but it can also add up to a lot of stress. So we must ask ourselves: why do we do it? Why go to all of that trouble and expense?

For us Christians, the answer is simple. We are welcoming the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are giving him the royal treatment he deserves as he becomes incarnate—fully human—born of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

But, just as we prepare our homes and dinner tables for this great festival, so must we also prepare our hearts. The season of Advent is all about being quiet and attentive, waiting with open hearts to receive the Christ child in our Christmas Communion. This quietness and attentiveness can be hard to achieve—it has to compete with all the jingly, twinkling exuberance this time of year has to offer. But the discipline and the waiting are worth it.

When our Lord comes as a tiny baby on Christmas Eve, and you receive him as tenderly as his own mother did that night so

long ago, you will feel the true meaning of Christmas. The awe and wonder of that night will, in turn, become a joy so overflowing and infectious that you will really have something to celebrate! It will not be hollow like a milk chocolate Santa Claus. It will be real—life-filled—and life giving.

With God's grace helping us, let us spend this Advent season waiting on the coming of our Lord at Christmas, and in praying *Adveniat Regnum Tuum*—Thy Kingdom Come!

Affectionately Your Friend and Pastor,

Richard J. Robyn

Fr. Richard J. Robyn

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PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

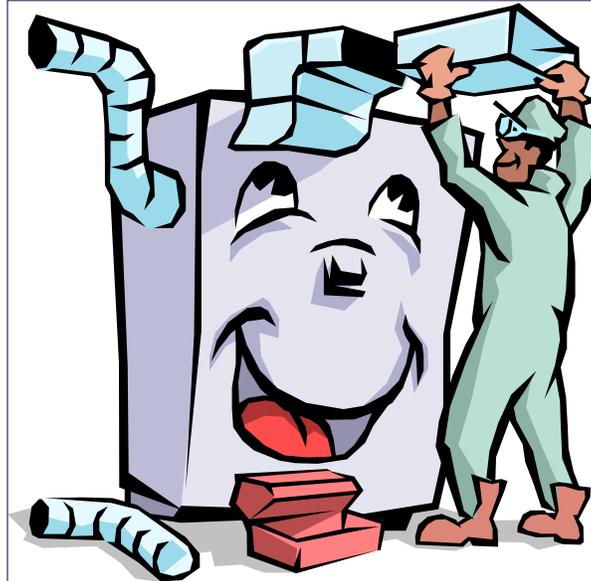
Ups and Downs

Just when you think you have things somewhat under control... BAM! You get hit with something else. At least that's how it feels sometimes. You never know what's coming around the corner. It's true in our individual lives as well as in the life of our parish, and especially when it comes to our buildings and grounds! So here are the ups and downs:

1. The portion of **churchyard wall** that collapsed along Oxford Avenue has been repaired! A longtime local contractor, Wm. J. Oehler Masonry did a fantastic job of taking the wall apart and rebuilding it using the original stones. You can tell where it has been repaired because the mortar is lighter. They also fortified other sections along Oxford Avenue that were starting to crumble. We hope to be able to bring Oehler back again to make repairs to the Disston and Longshore sides next year.

2. Leaves, leaves, leaves! **Saturday morning, December 5th** is the big day when we rake and bag leaves like crazy, weather permitting (raindate: December 12th). **We need your donation of paper leaf collection bags now!** Please bring the bags into Church with you on Sunday and leave them on the pew near the baptismal font. **We also need your participation – your physical presence** - to help us rake, as well as to help

us manage volunteers. This is a family activity and we need all Trinity hands on deck from **9AM to 12 noon!** We will provide food and drink to all participants. **This is a great way to give back to Trinity, as well as to show the community that we are here!**



Warning: The heater in this picture may appear to be happier than the boiler in the Parish House.

3. **Boiler problems... again.** There are 3 circulating pumps for the ancient steam boiler that heats the Parish House auditorium, gym, offices and classrooms. Two of the pumps need to run at the same time to push the steam through the lines to heat the building. The third pump is the spare, as the pumps continually seem to break or seize up. Steam heating systems like ours are no longer made! When we need a part to repair the boiler or a pump, it has to be custom made and as a result the parts are very expensive. We have difficulty even finding skilled repair men who know how to work on this type of heating system. Right now, 2 of our

pumps are broken, so we are without heat until a pump can be fixed.

Normally I would say, "Put on a sweater if you're cold", but we can't say that to our tenant, Oxford Child Care Center (OCCC)!

Thankfully, last year we invested in a new heating system for the Jansen Building, so those classrooms are not affected by the boiler problems. But OCCC also uses the Auditorium and the classrooms adjacent to the gym and over the church office. Hopefully the weather will stay warm for the next couple of weeks until we can get the boiler up and running again - until the next time it breaks down! Which leads me to...

4. **The next Property Committee Meeting is Wednesday night, December 9 at 7PM in the Buchanan Building.** We need to discuss what we should do about the Parish House heating system. Some of us fantasized about installing a new zoned system that would allow us to heat areas only when they are being used. We may have to bite the bullet, which means taking money from our investments (which we normally do not touch) in order to do this work. We need your help, input and opinions – **please join us for this meeting.** We need your prayers to do what is best for Trinity's future.

~Pam McCracken,
Property Committee Chairperson



Music Notes

Christmas at Trinity, Oxford is always a special time. This year will be no exception. The Bell, Junior, and Senior Choirs are busy preparing for this holy season as we celebrate the birth of Our Lord.

We invite you to experience the joy of Christmas at all of our celebrations:

Sunday, December 13th at 10 AM:

Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 20th at 10 AM:

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols with music by Senior Choir, Junior Choir, and String Ensemble

Thursday, December 24th at:

7 PM - Christmas Eve Mass with music by Junior Choir and Bell Choir

10 PM - Christmas Concert by Senior Choir

10:30 PM - Christmas Eve Mass with music by Senior Choir

We wish everyone
a Happy and Blessed Christmas!

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

~Mary Sampson, Organist/Choirmaster

The Pledge Report

Pledges Expected: Jan-Oct 2009	\$70,833.34
Pledges Received: Jan-Oct 2009	\$64,888.21
\$ Shortfall	\$5,945.13
% Shortfall	8.39 %

Church Envelopes for 2009— Thank you to those who have returned their **pledge cards** for 2010. Envelopes will be in the church on **December 6**. It is not too late, if you have not sent your pledge for next year. A full report from the Stewardship committee will follow in January.

Regarding the Rector

If you guessed "C" to the last issue's question, give yourself a pat on the head. Father Robÿn is the eldest of 5 siblings. He has four younger sisters. Take a gander at this next question.

You may not know to look at him, but Father Robÿn _____.

- Collects antique mechanical musical instruments.
- Is fluent in 3 languages.
- Was an All-State Basketballer in High School.
- Has crossed the Arctic Circle, Equator, and the International Date Line.



December 2009 Calendar

Christian Education & Worship

December 6: II Advent

7:30 am—Morning Prayer
8:00 am—Holy Eucharist
8:45 am—Sr. Choir Rehearsal in Buchanan Building
10:00 am—Holy Eucharist and Church School
11:15 am—Jr. Choir Rehearsal in Church
Readings:
Baruch 5:1-9
Psalm 126
Romans 15:4-13
Luke 21:25-33

December 13: III Advent

7:30 am—Morning Prayer
8:00 am—Holy Eucharist
8:45 am—Sr. Choir Rehearsal in Buchanan Building
10:00 am—Christmas Pageant in Parish House Auditorium
11:15 am—Jr. Choir Rehearsal in Church
Readings:
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Psalm 85:7-13
1 Corinthians 4:1-6
Matthew 11:2-10

December 20: IV Advent

7:30 am—Morning Prayer
8:00 am—Holy Eucharist
8:45 am—Sr. Choir Rehearsal in Buchanan Building
10:00 am—Lessons and Carols
11:15 am—Jr. Choir Rehearsal in Church
Readings:
Micah 5:2-4
Psalm 80:1-7
Philippians 4:4-7
John 1:19-28

December 24: Christmas Eve

7:30 pm—Child-friendly Mass
10:00 pm—Christmas Concert
10:30 pm—Christmas Eve Mass

December 25: Christmas Day

9:00 am—Holy Eucharist

December 27: St. John (I Christmas)

7:30 am—Morning Prayer

8:00 am—Holy Eucharist
10:00 am—Holy Eucharist and Church School

Readings:

Isaiah 61:10--62:3
Psalm 147:13-21
1 John 1:1-10
John 21:19-25

Trinity's Events

December 1, 2009: Articles for January 2010 issue of The Trinitarian due to trinitarianeditor@yahoo.com

December 5, 2009: Leaf Raking from 9 am to 12 noon. See Property Committee article on page 2 for details.

December 6, 2009:

Christmas gifts for both the ECS children and adults from the Protestant Home, are due to the Children's House by Sunday December 6, 2009. If you did not select a name, you can contribute towards purchasing a gift for those in the Foster care Program. Envelopes will be available in church, or you can send your donation to the office marking your donation for ECS.

December 8, 2009: Girls' Friendly Society—7 pm in the Children's House

December 12, 2009: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal—10 am in the Parish House Auditorium. Lunch to follow. Volunteers needed to set up and to serve. Please call the office: 215-745-6114.

December 14, 2009: Vestry Meet-

ing—7 pm in the Buchanan Building

December 20, 2009:

Advent and Christmas Music Memorials And Christmas Flower Memorials—Deadline for having names included in the Bulletin is December 20, 2009. Please put envelopes in the offering plates or send donations to the church office. Minimum donation requested for flowers is \$10.00.

Church Decorating—Join us after the 10:AM service to set up the flowers, the aisle candles, and to hang greens. A baked Potato Lunch will follow in the Buchanan Building.

Outreach Events

Alcoholics Anonymous Mtgs:
Sunday Nights, 7:00 PM-9:30 PM
Location: Buchanan Building.

Narcotics Anonymous Mtgs:
Friday Nights, 7:30 PM-9:00 PM
Location: Buchanan Building.

Saturday Nights, 12:00 MIDNIGHT
Location: Buchanan Building.



Trinity Church, Oxford's Odds & Ends



I hereby publish the banns of marriage
between
Scott Theodore Duhnke
and
Laurie Michelle Tuttle.

If anyone knoweth any reason why this
marriage ought not to take place, thou art
bidden to declare it.

This is the first time of asking.

The Rev'd Richard J. Robyn



**All Saints' Day At
Trinity Church, Oxford**

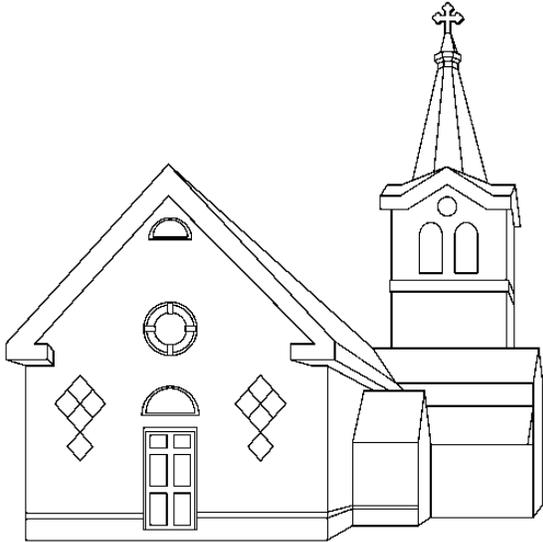
Trinity's Church School children and youth decorated pumpkins to represent saints both past and present.

During the service, they displayed their saint and told the congregation a little bit about each of them.



Trinity Church, Oxford

6901 Rising Sun Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19111



Trinity Church, Oxford

Oxford Avenue at Longshore

Philadelphia, PA 19111

Telephone: 215-745-6114

Fax: 215-745-1258

email: trinitychurchoxford@gmail.com

www.trinitychurchoxford.org



Worship Services

7:30 AM Morning Prayer

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Church School

10:00 AM Classes during the academic year.



The Church Building is Wheelchair Accessible

Our Staff

The Reverend Richard J. Robyn, *Rector*
Mary Sampson, M.A., *Organist/Choirmaster*
Chris Claypoole, *Secretary*
Michael Pacillio, *Sexton*

Our Vestry

Dorothy Orr ('10), *Rector's Warden*
Judith Maile ('12), *Accounting Warden*
Lorraine Henry ('11), *Secretary*
Lynne Geliebter ('12)
Angela Lyons ('11)
Pamela McCracken ('12)
Robert Miller ('12)
Jeffrey Pyle ('10)
L. Stephanie Smith ('10)
Melinda Weaver ('11)
Lois Annand, *Treasurer*

Interim Trinitarian Editor

L. Stephanie Smith, trinitarianeditor@yahoo.com