

Trinity NOTES

March 6, 2011

Dear Sisters and Brothers

Tish and I have been overwhelmed by the concern and support we have received as a result of the story I shared last week. Please know that I did not share our story on Sunday as a plea for help but rather as a demonstration of God's provision for us. Our witness has always been that God has provided and we believe God will continue to do so.

As a new priest in the diocese of Virginia, I am required to go through a two year orientation program entitled Fresh Start. We meet once a month to discuss various issues related to the diocese of Virginia in particular or with service as a priest in general. At a recent meeting we discussed when and under what circumstances it was appropriate for a priest to receive gifts from parishioners. I strongly believe that it would not be appropriate to accept a financial gift directly from a parishioner.

However, I do believe that one of the ways that God provides is through the body of Christ. It is very gratifying as your pastor that so many of you have said "*let me be an instrument for God to help in this situation.*" It is my sincere hope that those who have expressed an interest to help us in our situation will instead support a Trinity Benevolence Fund; which could serve as a short term loan fund for the vicar and members of the parish. I have been made aware of a number of instances where in addition to myself other parishioners could have benefited from such a fund as a concrete demonstration of God's provision.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Cass

March 6th is the 1st Sunday of the month. Please remember the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank in your grocery shopping and bring can goods to church



LAST WEEK'S VITALS TITHES & GIFTS

1. Last Sunday's attendance:	84
2. Last Sunday's offering:	
Pledge	\$2,295.00
Gifts & Plate	283.50
Chair Fund	300.00
Sunday School	150.00
Breakfast Ministry	65.00
Rent Parish Hall	40.00
Total	<u>\$3,133.50</u>

Chair Fund (received and pledged monies) is at enough for 74 of the 150 chair goal.

An Intentional Multicultural Christian Community of Reconciliation, Transformation, and Love

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New Sanctuary Chairs

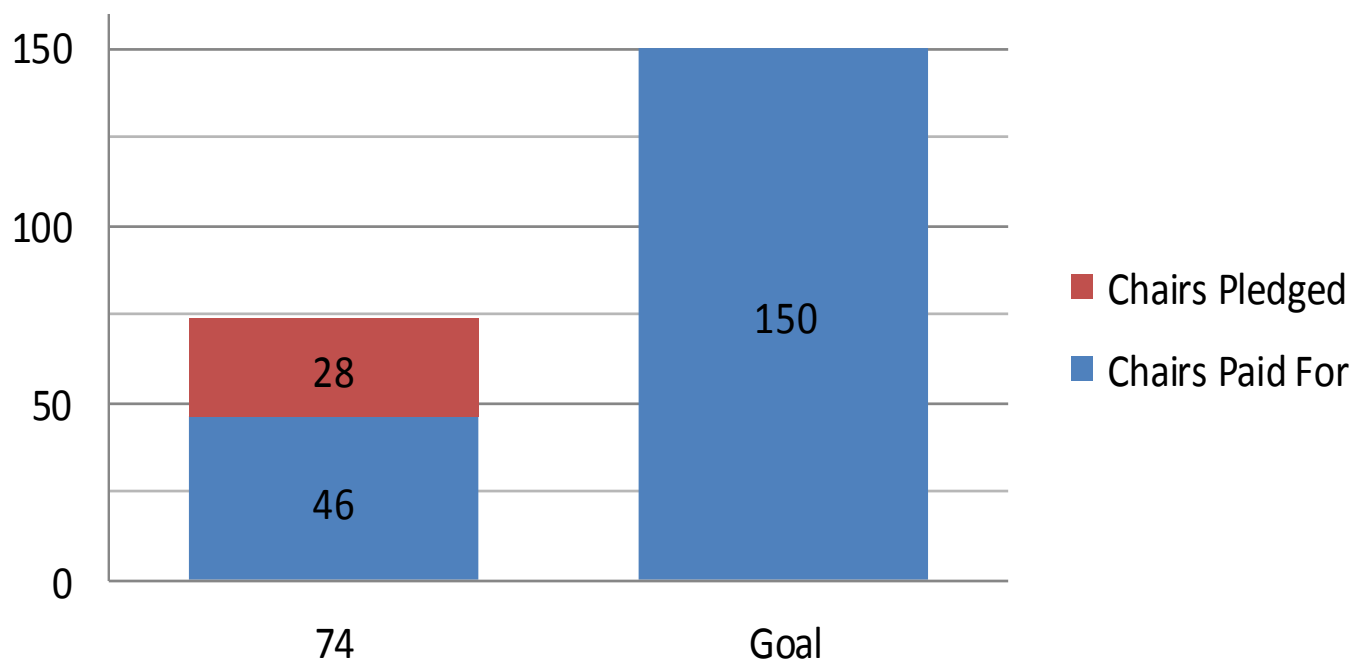
Here is a picture of the new sanctuary chair. In addition to having a book rack underneath there will also be one on the back. This will provide plenty of space for the two hymnals, Book of Common Prayer and other material that we might use as a part of our worship. The color will be either hunter green or red and we hope to have a sample chair available in about a month. The cost for these chairs will be \$150 each.

Re-outfitting the sanctuary with new chairs is a big endeavor but it is also a necessary one. Our current chairs have been with us since the early 70's and we lose one about every two weeks. One interesting note about the new chairs which may be of interest to some is that they will be wider (by 4 inches) and thicker (more padding).

You are invited to consider purchasing one or more of these chairs in memory of someone or in thanksgiving.



Trinity Chair Fund



Gardening for God: What We're Doing, What You Can Do

I've been making announcements and talking about gardening in our congregation for a while now, so it's probably pretty plain that making things grow is something I have a passion for. But our sister Ayuko White recently asked me a question that, like so many of her questions, resonated far beyond the original moment in which she asked it: *I really get it, Kendra*, she said to me one day over coffee, *but what makes gardening on 10 and a Half Street—or anywhere for that matter—a ministry?*

So, bless Ayuko, I've been thinking about and meditating on and researching that question ever since she asked it and, while I'm writing mostly to describe our workday on Saturday, March 5, and make a few more announcements about the garden, I hope you grant me a little bit of indulgence because I think my answer is something that I want and need to share with the Trinity family, too.

First of all, I should say a word about my personal connection to the land. Like many of us, I come from a family with roots in farming, so I'm sure that has something to do with it. But the feeling goes deeper than just occupation or tradition. I remember

a conversation with Mother Melana almost 10 years ago about my summertime church-going habits where, in answer to a question about where I'd been on a long-ago Sunday, I said I had spent the morning with God ... in my garden...

Now, as I told Melana back then, I'm not advocating skipping church to garden as a regular practice—I've come to believe that God's call to us to be in community with each other on the Sabbath supersedes ... well, just about every other obligation or desire. But I can also say, as I said to her, on those Sundays when I've responded to the call of the soil, my reward has been a meditative state of ecstatic ease in and communion with creation that seems as powerful as, oh, let's say any thousand sermons I've heard in my life as an Episcopalian. (No offense intended to my beloved Charlottesville preachers!) You guys know I'm no biblical scholar, but there is a quote from Job that approaches how I feel:

But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
or birds of the air and they will tell you;
or speak to the earth and it will teach you;
or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all

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CAN YOU IMAGINE NO COFFEE HOUR AT TRINITY?

We are still in need of one or more persons to host a coffee hour once a month. This is an important ministry that can be shared with 2 or 3 other persons. If you are interested please speak with Pastor Cass.

SMALL GROUPS

Tuesday evenings — 7:00 to 8:30
(contact Bill Anderson)

Friday mornings — 8:30 to 10:00
(contact Pastor Cass)

Friday afternoons — Noon to 1:00
(contact Ayuko White)

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these does not know that the hand of the lord has done this? In His hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind. —Job 12: 7-10.

So the point is, yes, that gardening, for me, represents a way of approaching God. But that's not all—it also is an expression of what I was taught as a child to call the "rainbow promise," the one described in Genesis at the end of the Noah's Ark story: God's covenant with us and with all of creation. If in its tiny way, my backyard garden is an expression of that promise, then how much more so is the garden that is starting to grow community on 10 and a Half Street a correspondingly larger part of that promise?

And there's more. Yes, we are part of the promise because we're acting as stewards of nature when we connect with the soil, but, though critically important, that is not, in fact, the heart and soul of the work that's unfolding. The heart and soul of that work is, as Ayuko so wisely pointed out during that coffee date, the mission and ministry that we have undertaken at Trinity: the mission and ministry of *reconciliation*. There are at least three ways this potential can express itself on 10 and a Half Street:

- Reconciliation of people with the earth, both the people of our congregation and the people of the neighborhood who may be suffering, without even being aware of it, all manner of ills because of the disconnection from the earth our culture encourages.
- Reconciliation of neighbor with neighbor, across racial and socioeconomic lines and even, with the presence of Burmese and Bhutanese refugees in the neighborhood, lines of language and nationality.
- Reconciliation of congregation with congregation, as we learn to know our brothers and sisters at St. Paul's in a different, deeper way and reach out to conservative congregations like Zion Union, Covenant (which operates Hope Community Center a few blocks away), and New

Covenant Pentecostal (on Grady Avenue in the old Trinity location).

God says in Leviticus 25:23-24 (see, I told you I've been doing my homework!): "The land is mine and you are but ... my tenants. Throughout the country that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land." So my request to you as the growing season advances is that we meditate about those words, pray about them, and explore ways that we can participate in God's work of reconciliation leading to transformation and love. Here's specifically where we need your prayers and your labors:

Join the Trinity Steering Committee

Joe Szakos and Ayuko White have agreed to work with us. But we need more people and skills—specifically, people with financial acumen or grant-writing experience and those blessed with the gift of hospitality. Please call me (249-4033) or Marc McVicker (825-9602) if God starts speaking to you on these matters—or email one of us at cvillek3ndra@gmail.com or mcvickerdesigns@gmail.com.

Help Out on a Garden Workday

The next one is Saturday, March 5, from 10 a.m. to noon. We'll be doing a few light jobs that are suitable for children and some heavier tasks and all of them teach some essential home gardening skills:

- Composting operation (*a job light enough for children*).
- Weeding and Cleaning (*a light job children can do with some help*).
- Raised Beds (*of medium difficulty but short duration*).
- Bed-building workshop (*heavy work, including digging and use of rototiller*).

We'll have water on site, but please bring a snack. The plan right now is to work from 10-12. If we have enough people, this is all we'll need. If not, we'll take a break to eat a bite, then take another hour to finish the beds.

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 6, 2011

8:45 a.m.	Breakfast	Parish Hall
9:15 a.m.	Christian Formation For Children	Upstairs Classrooms
	Christian Formation For Youth	Library
	Christian Formation For Adults	Library
	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
10:30 a.m.	Worship*	Sanctuary (Holy Eucharist)

*Childcare for infants and toddlers is offered during the worship service (10:30 a.m. - Noon.)

Upcoming Events

March

- 6 Worship with elements from the Church of South India
- 9 Ash Wednesday Services 8:30 am & 7:00 pm
- 16, 23, 30 Lenten Program
- 20 Zephyrus Concert 4:30 pm

Easter Flowers

If you would like to make a donation toward the Easter flowers, please sign up on the list posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.



PARISH WORK DAY

&

COOKOUT

Saturday, March 19th

1-5 pm **WORKDAY**

COOKOUT 5 to 6

Trinity Leadership

Lay Ministers: The Congregation

Bishops: The Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston

The Rt. Rev. David C. Jones

The Rt. Rev. "Ted" Gulick, Jr.

Vicar: Pastor Cass Bailey

Senior Warden: Mark Bell

Junior Warden: Mary Newton

Vestry: Mark Bell, 2012

Lauren Fleischmann, 2013

Amy Griffith, 2013

Nick Garber, 2014

Deborah Gille, 2014

Jenny Holmes, 2012

Erica Lloyd, 2014

Mary Newton, 2013

Diane Sampson, 2012

Treasurer: Beverly Bivins

Minister: Carlton Dickerson



Altar Flowers for March 6 are given by Gretchen Ellis in memory of David Schlothauer.

Please NOTE:

The Prayer Request Box in the chapel is checked regularly and prayer is offered for any requests that are present.

Prayer List

Please pray for:

- Hazel Clave (Kristin Szakos' grandmother who is 106 years old).
- Joe Cochran and family as they journey through seminary.
- David, Margaret Ann, and Jenna



Lay Ministers Scheduled:

Sunday, March 6, 2011

Lectors: Jay Schlothauer & Cheryl Kasper

Intercessor: Steve Neumeister

Chalice Bearers: Al Anderson & Kendra Hamilton

Altar Guild: Betty Jones, Mary Blair & Helen Plaisance

Acolyte: Richard Johnson

Ushers: Jenny Holmes & Al Anderson

Counter: Diane Sampson

Home Communion: Mary Newton

Hospitality Hour: Patricia Bailey

Breakfast: Team 4 (Javier Figueroa-Ray & Richard Johnson)

If you are unable to serve, please get a substitute.



The Episcopal Church

March 6, 2011 – Last Sunday After Epiphany / World Mission Sunday

Each year, the Episcopal Church designates the Last Sunday After Epiphany as World Mission Sunday, and this year the focus is on the ministries of Episcopal missionaries around the world. The theme for this year is taken from today's gospel reading, "Lord, it is good for us to be here" (Matthew 17:4).



Travis Shields, South Africa

There are currently over 60 Episcopal missionaries in 25 countries around the world serving as teachers, medical professionals, clergy, and in other important capacities. They are recent college graduates and established professionals who have answered God's call to go and be in the midst of their brothers and sisters in another part of God's world.



Bill Schwartz, Qatar

For the latest information and postings about global ministry, visit the "Global Mission of the Episcopal Church" page on Facebook.



Robin Donney, Sudan

The Episcopal Church works hand in hand with our neighbors around the world and down the block. We pray for partner congregations and dioceses, we offer relief to our brothers and sisters in need during times of crisis, and our missionaries around the world serve as our eyes, ears, hands, and feet on the ground.



Trish Morck, Ecuador

The Rev. David Copley, mission personnel officer for the Episcopal Church, explains that World Mission Sunday is an ideal opportunity to connect local congregations and parishioners with the wider church and its international work. "Sharing stories of Episcopal missionaries is another way of getting involved in our worldwide mission efforts."



To find out more about World Mission Sunday, scan the QR code on the left with your smart phone or go to <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/wmsunday>.

Mitchell House News and Call for Assistance

The downstairs apartment of the Mitchell House, Trinity's transitional housing for families effected by domestic violence is nearly ready to be occupied. We need help from the congregation in putting finishing touches on the apartment. First, we need several volunteers to sort through the kitchen which is over-stocked. We need to select and box NICE, usable, and preferably matched items to keep in the apartment. Other items should be boxed for Goodwill or thrown away, depending on their condition. After this is done, the apartment will be professionally cleaned, courtesy of the Shelter for Help in Emergency.

Once the apartment is cleaned, we need teams of volunteers to adopt and set up one room. There are basic furnishings in each room, so the main tasks will be arranging and decorating the rooms. There are some linens, but we may need to add to these. We would like the rooms to be comfortable and welcoming.

There are some furnishings that could be replaced or augmented.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex on Sunday. Please consider signing up for one of the tasks or to provide some of the needed materials. For further information, please contact Gretchen Ellis at 971-3078 or ellisg53@msn.com.

Mitchell House Tasks

- Kitchen organization (Ideally this would be done during the week of February 28). Select and box NICE, usable, and preferably matched items to keep in the apartment. Other items should be boxed for Goodwill or thrown away, depending on their condition.
- Adopt-a-Room (after the apartment is professionally cleaned, which should be completed by March 11). All rooms need to be made move-in ready. The bedrooms are furnished with single beds and dressers. There are some linens. The rooms need to be set up and decorated. The living room has a sofa, rocker and dinette set. The rooms needing adoption are:
 - Back left bedroom
 - Back right bedroom
 - Front bedroom
 - Kitchen set-up
 - Living Room
 - Bathroom - Shelter for Help in Emergency Board of Directors will do this.

Wish list (items with asterisk most urgent needs):

- *Area rug(s) for living room
- *Dinette set
- *Arm chair
- *Light fixture for living room
- Coffee and/or end tables
- Installation of lattice around stairs to upper apartment

Lenten Events

Wednesday, March 9 Ash Wednesday Services (8:30 am & 7:00 pm)

Wednesday, March 16, 23, & 30 Soup Supper and Program (at Westminster)

Wednesday, April 6 & 13th Soup and Program (at Trinity)