
Trinity Chapel Newsletter

January 2008



The Episcopal Church Welcomes You!

Rector: The Reverend Marsha Hoecker
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*Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 a.m., followed by Coffee Hour.
Childcare and Sunday School through high school age also at 9:30 a.m.*

Vestry Members

Senior Warden: Paul Wade
Junior Wardens: Maureen Panetta/Nancy Sawyer
Treasurer: Michael King Assistant Treasurer: Karen Akins
Lindsay Comeau, Amy Grundy, Beth Wade

Looking Forward, Looking Back

It's a new year and it's Epiphany, that season of the church year when we celebrate the spreading of the Good News through the ministry of Jesus, through the apostles and ultimately through each of us. We celebrate the light of Christ coming into the world and moving like a candle to light other candles until the whole world is bright with the love of God.

At Trinity Chapel we will move forward into the New Year with hope, grateful to God for the gifts we have in this community and for the successes of the year just past. We will move forward, striving to spread the good news by finding ways to reach out to others and welcome new people into our midst.

A year ago, I had been here only one month. I was called by you to serve as your rector and help you meet your goals of growing and serving. We were all still very new to each other but before the end of that January we had jumped into our work with both feet and a lot of faith and enthusiasm. I presented goals at the annual meeting that were ambitious and they were embraced. Side by side we tackled the first goal, the renovation of the rectory, and we have seen the wonderful results of that labor.

Now we are looking at another annual meeting. We will set some goals again, goals that we hope will further the mission of Christ, goals that will help us to be better and more effective disciples, goals that will strengthen us as a community of faith.

But before we set new goals and move forward, we need to take time to reflect on where we have been. We need to look at the goals we set last year and ask how well we have done in meeting them. There were also some hopes and

expectations that you had when you were searching for a priest, and likewise some hopes that I had when I was looking for a congregation. We need to ask ourselves whether our expectations have been met, whether they need a little tweaking, or whether we need to articulate them again in a slightly different way.

On Sunday, January 13, we will gather after the service for a **mutual ministry review**. Phil Whitbeck, a trained facilitator from the diocese, will guide us in our process, using the material generated during the search process and at the last annual meeting as a starting place. Together we will evaluate the ministry we have done together over the past year, identifying areas that need to be improved as well as those that need to be celebrated. Please be sure to join us in this important work.

On February 3, we will have our annual meeting. We will do the business that we always have – reporting, and electing vestry members and convention delegates – but we will also look to the future and define the next steps we want to take as we carry the light of Christ to the world.

Thank you for welcoming Henry and me into your midst over the last year. We look forward to another year of growing together in faith and spreading the Good News.



This is your newsletter! Your family news, special prayer intentions, and information you want to share about the world around us should be forwarded to Lynn Gresock by 1/29/08 for the February issue: 978-448-6947 or lynn.gresock@amec.com



In 2007, we managed to renovate the Rectory. It didn't happen quickly, but many people, doing whatever they were able to do, made it happen. I believe the Spirit grew at Trinity as well.

For 2008, our emphasis should be on growth – so that we can better achieve our Mission of spreading the Word. If we keep that in mind, we can make it happen.

But we have to keep Trinity Chapel operating. Looks like pledges have increased substantially – please get yours in if you haven't already.

Paul

Where Two or Three are Gathered... Snowstorms prevented the TAG team from meeting in December, but we are continuing our research to find out more about our chosen target group. When that research is done we will make a report to the parish with our findings and begin the process of actually planning what the service will look like.

We know already that the service may be quite different from our current service. The music will likely be different and we will probably have some new creative ways of sharing the Gospel and the Eucharist. If anyone has had the chance to visit a church that has attracted a lot of people in their thirties, please let us know what you experienced.

But remember, this is a new service, at a different time, and maybe even in a different place from our current service. **The 9:30 a.m. Sunday service that we have now will not change!** Our goal is to create a second service that will attract a new demographic group, people who are not here now for a variety of reasons. We do not want to change anything for those who are being fed by what is currently offered.

Loaves and Fishes. Our ministry to Loaves and Fishes is a critical means to feed the hungry. Please continue to bring offerings of food and other supplies each week. It's cold outside – let's share the warmth of sustenance with those less fortunate and pass the light along!

EPIPHANY PARTY!!!

Saturday, January 12th, 5 p.m. at the rectory. Bring your favorite dish to share, musical instruments and good cheer! Marsha and Henry will provide beverages. Celebrate the light!

Red Door or No Red Door? Throughout Advent members of the parish cast their votes of yes or no on painting the front door of the church red. The votes have been counted and there were 29 yes votes and two nos. Therefore, as soon as we have approval from the Historical Commission we'll see how the red paint looks on the doors.

Tri-Parish Committee News. The Tri-Parish Committee has a several activities planned for the season of Lent. On the first Saturday in Lent, February 9, we will have a Quiet Day at St. Andrew's. Nicollette Wellington, of the UCC church in Boxborough will lead us in experiencing the Labyrinth as a tool for prayer and there will be plenty of time for quiet reflection. A canvas Labyrinth will be set up in the parish hall. The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. and finish at about 2:00 p.m. Participants may come for the entire day, or for just the morning or the afternoon pieces. A simple lunch will be provided at noon.

On Tuesday evenings during Lent there will be a book study offered at Trinity Chapel. The Rev. Marsha Hoecker will facilitate a discussion of Marcus Borg's book, *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*. Marcus Borg will also be the keynote speaker for the Diocesan Educational Event on March 15, giving study group participants a chance to experience the author directly and hear more of his ideas.

Our Junior High trip to Nightwatch at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine was not very successful, probably because the early January date came too soon on the heels of the holidays. We will try again with a City Reach weekend for high school students at the Cathedral in Boston the weekend of February 29 – March 1. This program sponsored by Ecclesia Ministries (Common Cathedral), includes worship and service with the homeless of the city.

On February 10, Bishop Cederholm will be visiting all three churches. The plans for the day are still being worked out, but we hope to include a gathering of members of the three parishes and the Bishop for some conversation and a shared worship experience in the late afternoon.



In Our Prayers. We continue prayers for parishioners, family and friends who are in need of healing, whether from sickness or sorrow. Please offer special prayers for strength and healing for:

- † Adele Lamoreaux
- † Phil Lamoreaux
- † Prudy Harris
- † Dorothy Nichols
- † Betty Mahon
- † Louise Longley
- † Cathy Longley
- † Jane Bouvier
- † Renee Raymond (Bert's brother)
- † Martha Blanchard (Mona's aunt)
- † Keith Warden
- † Carol Dozlis (Monique's mother)
- † Bessie Haynes (John's mother)
- † Judy Knox
- † Helen Wilkins
- † Donald Cobb
- † Margaret Thompson
- † Grant MacLean
- † Gina Ledger (a friend of Maureen's who has been diagnosed with cancer); and
- † Leslie Wilkins (Karla & Karen's niece, who had surgery for her cancer).

Prayers continue also for our men and women in the armed forces, especially:

- † Hector Fernandez
- † Ned Sullivan
- † Mike Adelberg
- † Tim Fahey
- † Frank Main
- † Charles Therrien
- † Christopher Phelps
- † Bill Duddridge
- † Marin Ladd
- † Jorge Carrillo
- † Joseph Hillenbrand
- † Nathan Tarleton;
- † Steven Holmes and Stu Younger in Afganistan;
- † Briuce Gibson in Iran;

- † Anthony McAuliff who was shot in Iran; and
- † Thanks for the safe return from Iraq of John McClure.

Please let the Pastoral Care Team know of anyone for whom prayers or other support would be welcome.

Diocesan Happenings. The December 2007 publication of F.Y.I. provides information about a number of activities, including:

- A spring learning event on March 15 at Boston University featuring Dr. Marcus Borg as guest speaker (the author of the book we will focus on for our Lenten program) to address ways of speaking about faith in our everyday lives;
- An Epiphany study series is available on-line called "With Glad and Generous Hearts" that focuses on developing local church partnerships;
- A Ministry Discernment Conference on February 2;
- Ongoing monthly (January 23, February 27, March 26, April 23, and May 14) Radical Welcome Circles at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Boston to address ways of being more welcoming to all;
- A marriage workshop sponsored by the Concord River Deanery at St. Anne's-in-the-Field in Lincoln on February 2;
- A web-based Trinity Institute National Theological Conference on "Religion and Violence: Untangling the Roots of Conflict" on January 21 – 23; and
- Antiracism Training is available through a "Train the Trainers" program on Friday and Saturday, February 8 and 9 at the Walker Center in Newton.

For more information, consult www.diomass.org for the full publication.

Preparing for Annual Meeting. Trinity Chapel will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 3 following the 9:30 a.m. service. As is our custom, we will bring our favorite potluck items and share good fellowship in a meal together before the business portion of the Annual Meeting begins. In preparation for annual meeting, there are several important things to do:

- Provide material for the Annual Report to Karen Akins as soon as possible. Every year she works to be sure we have a consolidated report

in order to keep our meeting focused and efficient. Show your gratitude for this service to Trinity by providing your narratives to her early!

- Be sure you have turned in your pledge card. Your financial commitment to the church is important for budget planning in the new year.
- Beyond financial support, search your heart for ways in which you are called to bring your talents and time to sustaining and growing our parish community. Many opportunities also exist to serve and support your church – we cannot be what we want to be without you!
- Just as important, do plan to come and participate in the Annual Meeting. Your input and discernment in discussions will make the meeting a meaningful review of the year past and an effective planning session for that to come.

Liturgical Assistants for January. If you are unable to be there for your scheduled date, please make arrangements for a substitute. Thank you for all you do for your church!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayers</u>	<u>Chalice</u>
1/6	Beth Wade	Marge Halloran	Lew Sheen
1/13	Steve Longley	Nancy Shepherd	Tom Shepherd
1/20	Meg Gresock	Morning Prayer	
1/27	Sue Cody	Bunny Stewart	Kirstin Lind

The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a life of Faith. “What is the heart of Christianity?” “What does it mean to be a Christian today?”

Marcus Borg, the author of this book, gives us two possible answers. One is an older understanding, and the one many of us grew up with; the other is a new vision that is still emerging. Borg writes with conviction and passion because he is passionate about Christianity. He has been through a time of questioning, and in this book he shares the journey he has taken to find faith that is relevant and powerful in today’s changing world.

Borg’s questions and struggles are probably shared by many of us. The outcome of his search is a joyful affirmation of the relevance of Christianity today. The emerging vision that he defines frees our faith from its often troubling narrowness and individualistic focus and refocuses it on Christ’s mission of transformation.

Join us on Tuesday evenings during Lent at Trinity Chapel for a discussion of this work and

how it does or doesn’t speak to our own faith journeys. Discussions will be facilitated by the Rev. Marsha Hoecker, rector of Trinity Chapel and Missioner in the Nashoba Valley. **Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, February 12 at 7:30 p.m.** Books can be purchased on-line from Amazon.com for \$4.97 (used) to \$10.17 (new).



An Invitation from Bishop Bud... Dear Colleagues and Holy Partners, Advent Greetings of Hope and Promise.

Did you know that over 60 of our congregations are served by part time clergy?

I always say every parish has **full time ministry** including those with **part time** ordained leadership. For years I served as part time rector in Vermont. Those years were ones of formation and transformation for me as a priest. St. Paul’s, White River Junction, found “holy partners for its heavenly calling” (remember our convention?) for its ministries of formation and outreach in the community and deanery. I was blessed by those partnerships and relationships and so were hundreds and hundreds of homeless families in the shelter we formed with five other churches.

Many of you know such blessed partnerships in your ministries, communities and deanery. Many are seeking such relationships; others are not sure how to do so or why.

Therefore the Congregational Development and Support Task Force, Bishop Gayle, Cynthia Hubbard, Greg Jacobs and I want to invite you to a **Small Church Summit on Saturday, February 9, from 9:30 – 12:30 at St. Mark’s Church in Burlington.**

- We want to hear of the joys and challenges you experience – how God has blessed you and called you to mission
- We want to nurture “communities of practice” where prayer and holy relationships help congregations grow in vitality and viability
- We want to explore new paradigms for lay and ordained leadership and relationships among congregations
- We want to be surprised by God’s grace whenever God’s church gathers in Jesus’ name for the sake of the Gospel

Please mark your calendar and plan to bring 2-4 folks from your congregation (or your entire vestry) to this gathering.



**JANUARY
2008 CALENDAR**

Monday, January 1.
New Year's Day.

Wednesday, January 3.
7:15 p.m. Vestry Meeting at the Rectory.

Saturday, January 5.
Nightwatch at St. John the Divine, New York City – Middle Schoolers and Chaperones

Sunday, January 6. The Epiphany.
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayers, we pray for the people of: Christ Church (Old North) Boston; St. Augustine's & St. Martin's Church, Boston; Church of St. John the Evangelist, Boston; St. Stephen's Church, Boston; and Boston Harbor Deanery.

Saturday, January 12.
5:00 p.m. Epiphany Party at the Rectory.

Sunday, January 13. The First Sunday After Epiphany.
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Mutual Ministry Review and lunch following the service.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayers, we pray for the people of: Trinity Church, Boston; Episcopal Chaplaincy at Boston University, Boston; Emmanuel Church, Braintree; Trinity Church, Bridgewater; and Asiamerica Ministries.

Tuesday, January 15.
7:30 p.m. Tri-Parish Meeting at St. Andrew's in Ayer.

Thursday, January 17.
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Apple Valley.

Sunday, January 20. The Second Sunday After Epiphany.
9:30 p.m. Morning Prayer.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayers, we pray for the people of: St. Paul's Church, Brockton; All Saint's Church, Brookline; Church of Our Saviour, Brookline; the Diocesan Council; and Diocesan Business Systems and Property Consultants.

Monday, January 21.
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Thursday – Saturday, January 24 – 26.
"Where Two or Three are Gathered" Conference in New Orleans.

Sunday, January 27. The Third Sunday After Epiphany.
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist.

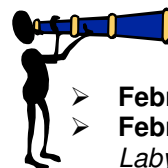
In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayers, we pray for the people of: St. Andrew's Church for the Deaf, Brookline; St. Paul's Church, Brookline; St. Mark's Church, Burlington; St. Peter's-on-the-Canal, Buzzard's Bay; United Interfaith Action; and Prison Ministries.

Tuesday, January 29
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Rivercourt Residences.

Sunday, February 3. The Last Sunday After Epiphany.
9:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist.
Annual Meeting with potluck lunch following coffee hour.



In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayers, we pray for the people of: Christ Church, Cambridge; St. Bartholomew's Church, Cambridge; St. James' Church, Cambridge; St. Peter's Church, Cambridge; and the Charles River Deanery.



LOOKING AHEAD

- **February 6** – Ash Wednesday
- **February 9** – Tri-Parish Quiet Day *Praying the Labyrinth*, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's in Ayer
- **February 9** – Small Church Summit, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., St. Mark's, Burlington
- **February 10** – Bishop's Visitation with the Rt. Rev. Bud Cederholm
- **February 12 (and Tuesday nights throughout Lent)** – Lenten Book Study, 7:30 p.m.
- **February 29 - March 31** – High School City Reach Weekend

