



THE TRUMPET

Trinity Episcopal
Church

Volume XL, Issue VIII

August 2011

Our Mission Statement

*As it has for more than two centuries, Trinity continues to be a community of the faithful,
reaching out joyfully in Christ's name to share God's love and compassion,
ministering to one another, our neighbors, and all creation.*

We pray that the transforming grace of the Holy Spirit will bring new generations to know, love, and serve Him.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

6:00 - 8:30 PM

MONDAY - FRIDAY

AUGUST 1-5

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DON'T MISS IT!

Contact Julia Burgess at Julia@juliaburgess.com or 393-0431
or visit <http://answersvbs.com/manage/homepage/Trinityportsmouth/> for more details

From the Trinity Episcopal Church Endowment Foundation

The Trinity Episcopal Church Endowment Foundation is a vital part of the ministry of Trinity Church and its ministries!

Parish leaders, with wisdom and foresight, created the Trinity Episcopal Church Endowment in 1948 to provide a way for church members to continue their stewardship of God's blessings long after entering into glory. The Vestry created a Board of Managers to oversee the growth and management of these gifts.

In recent years, the Vestry transformed this Endowment into a separately organized Trinity Episcopal Church Endowment Foundation, to encourage better oversight of the assets by a Board of Trustees. The six Trustees are elected by the Vestry and carry the fiduciary oversight of the Foundation as their main task. The current Trustees include Martha Frances Fortson (President), Louis Hibbitts (Vice-President), Gene DeNardi (Treasurer), Fran Gill (Secretary), Bob Hunt, Rita Hedgespeth, and Robert Rera. They meet regularly to oversee the assets (\$4 million at the publishing of the *Trumpet*), the work of investment managers from Morgan Stanley, and the use of the income generated from investments.

Monthly income helps to support the Church Yard, Christian formation, music, mission and outreach, and the general fund.

The Foundation is designed to do everything prudent and possible to support the work of the church on a permanent and perpetual basis so that the Foundation can support capital expenses and maintenance, and supplement every-member annual stewardship to grow the ministries of this church.

For more information, contact any of the Trustees—and watch future copies of the *Trumpet* for more news. And **mark your calendars now for Trinity Church Foundation Sunday: December 4th.**

A Service of Remembrance Sunday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church

On Sunday, September 11, 2011, we as a nation will observe the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and the crash of United Airlines flight 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Area pastors and people will come together to pray, read Scripture, sing hymns and reflect on the enduring lessons of the day, and how God works in the midst of tragedy and grief.

Invite your friends, co-workers, and neighbors. **Mark your calendars now.** Father John is happy to answer any questions you have or to provide you with flyers and a .pdf document to distribute by e-mail.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

500 Court Street,
Portsmouth, VA 23704

Telephone: 757-393-0431

Facsimile: 757-397-1403

E-mail:

admin@trinity-portsmouth.org

Web site:

www.trinity-portsmouth.org

WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
(breakfast follows)

9:30 a.m. Christian Formation
(September-May)

10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist

Tuesday

12:05 Eucharist & Healing
(All Saints' Chapel)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

2:00 pm-5:00 pm

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Dr. John R. Throop
Priest-in-Charge

Charles D. Porter, Jr.,
Parish Administrator

Stephen Kolb,
Director of Music Ministry

Julia Burgess Ballinger,
Director of Child Care Ministries

Linda Torres,
Financial Secretary

Tony M. Macklin, Sexton

VESTRY & OFFICERS

Gene DeNardi, Senior Warden

Sue Jordan, Junior Warden

Malcolm Fortson, Treasurer

Virginia Vail Kolb, Register

Barbara Davis

Sue Everett

Fran Gill

Anna Fay Grayson

Jean Hanbury

Rita Hedgespeth

Elizabeth Hudgins

Irv Lindley

Ron Weiss




Mission & Outreach

Food Basket Sunday: August 28

Please bring non-perishable food items for the Food Basket.

All items will be gathered on **Sunday, August 28th** for distribution to agencies feeding the hungry. Thanks so much for your help!

Oasis Center Breakfast Wednesday, September 7th beginning at 6 a.m.

Special thanks to the group of volunteers who worked at the OASIS kitchen on Wednesday morning, July 6th for our semi-monthly turn at serving breakfast. In addition to myself, Fr. John, Alan Whitney, Rita Hedgepeth, Dick Fox, Maria Cartwright, Elizabeth Psimas, and Larry Peacock cooked and served for about 65 people! Anyone who has not helped and would like to do so in September, should give me a call at 675-4381 or email me at dlindley@paperwhyte.com. The more the merrier! Dottie Lindley

August 21st: A Celebration and Thanks Reception: Charles Porter and Steve Kolb

As a parish, it's hard to say goodbye to faithful, hard-working employees; they are ministers among us as well. **Charles Porter**, our Parish Administrator for over 11 years—and a member before that—and **Steve Kolb**, Director of Music Ministry for the past two years, both are leaving for wonderful new opportunities. So we need to bid them godspeed.

Please plan to come to a farewell reception on **Sunday, August 21st in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist**. Please join in thanking them for their work with Trinity Church and celebrate all that they have done for the life of this parish. Questions? Please see Father John.

Discretionary Fund Sunday: August 21

Thank you for your generous support of the Clergy Discretionary Fund at Trinity Church. In this past month, the Fund has helped a young mother and daughter to stay housed through the end of July at a very reasonable cost. She's been through hard times and is trying to be re-employed. We have a real commitment to help the "marginally homeless". And there are more of these people than you can imagine.

The next month's **Discretionary Fund Sunday is August 21st**. Please be as generous as possible with your Discretionary Fund envelopes, a check earmarked "Discretionary Fund", or the loose offering in the plate that Sunday. Thanks and God bless!

Mark Your Calendars: 250th Anniversary Celebration Events

Trinity Church's year-long celebration of its 250th anniversary begins in October with two big events. Mark your calendars now:

Opening Evensong: Sunday, October 16th
Our kickoff event for the 250th anniversary will be Evensong according to the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*, in use at the time Trinity was founded. The founding Norfolk Parish sent people across the water to begin Portsmouth Parish.

The celebration begins with a **Celebration Parade** beginning at 3 p.m. at the High Street Landing, where we will greet parishioners from St. Paul's, Norfolk, and Christ and St. Luke's, Norfolk. Joined by members of Trinity, as well as others in the diocese and the community, we will march up High Street to the doorway of Trinity Church.

At 4 p.m., **Evensong** begins. Our featured preacher is the Rt. Rev. Jay Magness, Bishop Suffragan for Federal Ministries.

High Tea with the former British Ambassador to Sri Lanka will take place on Saturday, October 22nd. More details in the September *Trumpet*.



Wardens' Report

In a concerted effort to be fair and objective, your Vestry, over the past several weeks, listened to many people who worship at Trinity. We have attended meetings, received, reviewed and considered a petition, read letters, taken phone calls, and had many private conversations regarding your concerns.

The very nature of a contract, or covenant, between Trinity Church, the Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, and John Throop, Priest in Charge, Time Certain, obligated the Vestry to make a decision on whether or not to call John Throop as Rector no later than the end of his second year, September, 2011. The requirement put the Vestry in a tenuous position, for no matter how the Vestry voted, there would be some disagreement.

For the people who signed the petition, including those who are not members of Trinity Church, we can assure you there are many within the congregation who agree with the Vestry's decision. Therefore, whatever decision the Vestry made would result in a state of anxiety and turmoil within our congregation.

This Vestry will neither rescind nor vote again on the status of our Priest in Charge. To rescind the Vestry's initial decision, without further cause or reason, other than disagreement voiced by some, would shatter the confidence placed in the Vestry by the communicants who support the Vestry's decision, and undermine the governing function of the Vestry within the Episcopal Church.

The Vestry voted this past May to abide by the terms set forth in the Letter of Agreement with John Throop, that he be informed by the end of September, 2011. Giving him the results of the decision in May gives John additional time to find employment by September, 2012.

Between now and then, we can continue to be a divided church, or respect the Vestry's decision accepted by the Bishop and the Diocese of Southern Virginia and unite as a congregation and move forward for the good of the church we love. We sincerely hope the congregation will support the latter.

Gene DeNardi, Senior Warden
Sue Jordan, Junior Warden

News From Around the Diocese

Calling Volunteers For a Restoration Project

The Chanco Board of Directors is planning to begin preservation/restoration work on the conference center buildings. In August, the first part of this project will commence with the replacement of the roofing, siding and insulation of one of the buildings. Whether you can just swing a hammer and haul away debris or whether you are a professional roofer, we need YOU! All skill levels are necessary for this project to be a success. To volunteer, please contact Doug Weymouth at athike@juno.com and indicate when you are available between August 8th and 18th, your current skill level (0-10 with 10 being professional contractor), and your available tools.

2011 Fall Camp at Shrine Mont

The Tri-Diocesan Council on Aging will offer its annual Fall Camp on **October 24-27** at Shrine Mont in Orkney Springs. The keynote speaker is Marcus Borg, Canon Theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon. Chaplain for this year's camp is the Rt. Rev. Ted Gulick. Singer, storyteller and folk theologian Ed Kilbourne will also be there. Registration forms are available at http://im-ages.acswebnetworks.com/1/2279/2011_Fall_Camp_Registration_flier.pdf or from the church office.

Exploring Gifts for Ministry in the Workplace

Mark your calendar for November 12, 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. and join us for Exploring Gifts for Ministry in the Workplace. This day-long workshop for lay people focuses on understanding and claiming our gifts and mission to the community and the world. This workshop is offered by the Commission on Ministry for the Ministry of the Baptized and will be held at St. Matthias, Midlothian. Registration information coming soon. Save the date as registration will be limited.

Christian Formation at Trinity

Sunday Adult Christian Formation: *The Why? Series*

The *Why? Series* continues for three Sundays in August: August 7th, 14th and 21st. We will continue to handle some of the tough ethical questions we face in our own lives, in public policy today, and in history. We are learning and growing by approaching difficult problems from Christian ethical perspectives.

There's been a good-sized group at the July sessions—and now the group is setting the agenda for questions to tackle. So watch the Sunday bulletins

and the *e-Trumpet* for next question to tackle.

Advance Notice: Adult Christian Formation this Fall

On September 11th, we'll begin a new Sunday morning series called *Telling My Story/ Telling THE Story*. The series will deal with how to tell a "good story" and how to tell your story from a spiritual angle. We'll learn some lessons from a good novel, a great Bible story or two, and ways to keep a "spiritual autobiography." We'll learn some great ways of telling others about the Christ in you. Watch for more details.



Kids Corner

The Lemonade Stand was a success!
We are enjoying another super
great Vacation Bible School.

But there is still a little summer
left. Let's bring this great season
to a close with a PARTY!!

Join us for Fun on the Farm
at the Tapman's home.

Bring a lawn chair and a dish to share.

We'll have games, swimming and a
chance to see the horses up close!

2640 Freeman Mill Rd.

Suffolk, VA 23438

Saturday, September 10th

11:00-3:00.

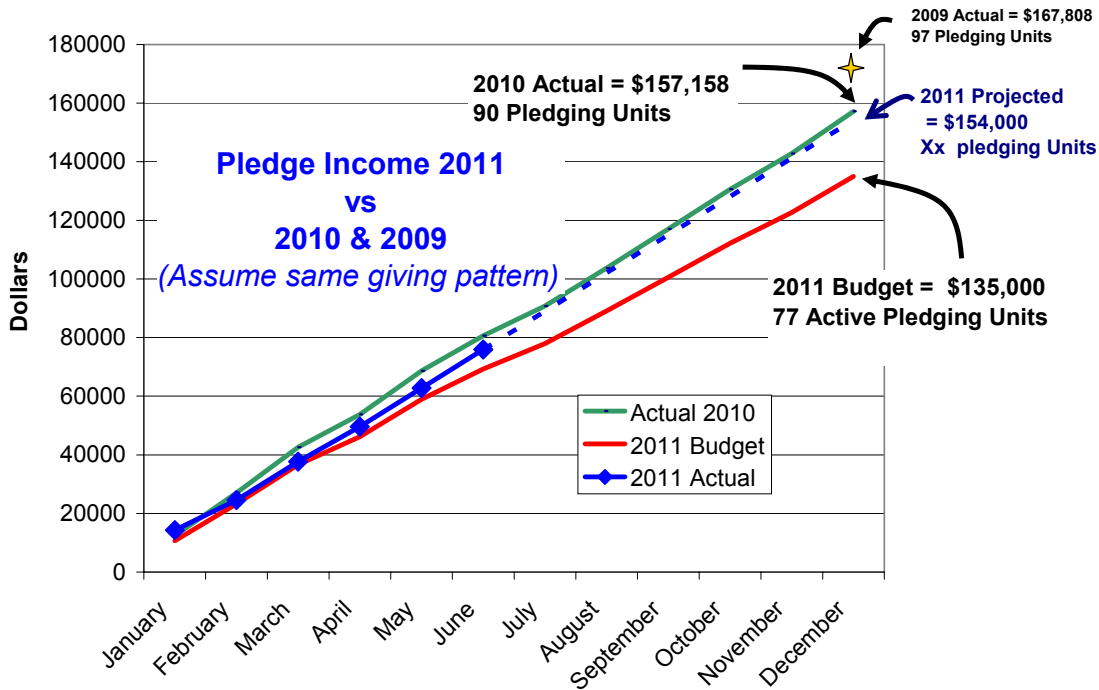
Let's sit in the shade, sip some tea,
chat and let the day go by.





Two Cents from the Treasurer

Last month I was happy to report a positive trend in Plate Revenues. This continued again this month and by the end of the year we may realize about \$23,000 more in revenues than budgeted. This is great news because it will delay the need to take an additional loan payment from the foundation. The Pledge Secretary indicated at the last Finance Committee meeting that we have 74 pledging units of record and based upon the trend, it looks like we will achieve about \$154,000 in pledge income this year. This represents an average pledge of about \$2,081 which is higher than at any time I can remember.



Over the last 6 months we have had expenses that exceeded revenues in the Operating Account by only \$6,200. We are getting closer to living within our means with an austere budget approved for this year. However, this is only part of the story of the finances at Trinity because we continue to rely on the foundation and other trust payments to cover operating/program costs. We have also spent our Restricted Funds to cover operations where the terms of the donations permitted. These will provide us time (a year or more) to grow contributions before the Restricted Funds balances are depleted. While God will Provide, it will be only indirectly through church growth and the bounty that God showers on each and everyone of us with his blessings. We have to pay our own bills (God didn't spend the money!)

I would like to spend a moment to review the Restricted Fund which currently has **\$95,636** in reserve funds. Of these, only about \$20,000 can be used for specific church expenses (e.g. flowers, Altar Guild, Music Program, and Youth Christian Formation). The fund includes another \$16,000, which are pass-through funds that we owe. There is another \$23,000 that is for specific outreach purposes (e.g. Rector's Discretionary Fund, 250th, Mission and Outreach, and the Christmas Shoppe Fund). The remainder are funds received for the maintenance and repair of the church and the church yard. Currently that is about \$36,000 in that section which comes from the Endowment. This fund includes a reserve for the HV/AC Replacement (8 of our 9 A/C units were installed in 1996 or earlier (We replaced one in the rectory from this fund last month!).

We need to aware that designated donations to the church for specific uses must be honored by the Vestry. These funds are placed into the Restricted Fund to ensure that we spend them as the donors directed. When

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Episcopal Church Women

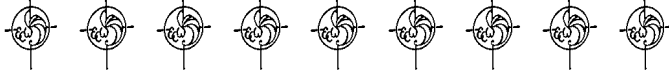
This summer the Women of Trinity are very busy getting ready for our FALL FEST on October 7th and morning of October 8th in our Parish Hall. Look for news about the Bazaar and workshops planned for this summer in the Bulletin every Sunday. If you have ideas or suggestions of things you would like to see at the bazaar, please call Beverly Matias or me.

This event has always brought our church together with our community, families and friends, so bring your friends and family to enjoy a day of shopping, lunch and visiting with friends. This event is our biggest fundraiser to provide donations to our church and community projects.

August 1st thru 5th is Vacation Bible School at Trinity. We have volunteered to cook and serve dinner on two of the five nights. If you can help us in the kitchen during this time, please sign up on a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.

Hope you are enjoying your summer.

With Love!
Mary K. Andrews, President



(Continued from page 6)

you place a contribution to the Rector's Discretionary Fund in the plate, it is deposited and credited to that specific fund in the Restrict Fund money market account. Likewise, when benefactors provide money to the church we have to honor their conditions. If bequests are to be invested and only interest spent, then these are deposited with the Foundation for investment. Next month I will discuss how we use the Endowment Allotments that represent the return on the funds invested in the Endowment Fund managed by the Trinity Foundation.

Please let me know if you have any items you wish me to discuss in future articles.

Malcolm Fortson
Trinity Treasurer



"Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose." –I Corinthians 1:10

In music, there is always dissonance. Regardless of what we might think we like, we all enjoy a degree of discomfort as notes clash against each other, provided that ultimately there is some kind of resolution. The style of the music does not matter—dissonance is always present. It creates a healthy tension which can then be resolved. Of course, some of us have a much higher tolerance for dissonance than others, similar to the tolerance some have for spicier foods. And some of us can live with less resolution, musical or otherwise, than others.

My piano students tease me from time to time about my use of metaphors to describe music. (I do it a lot.) But I also find that music, itself, is an excellent metaphor for many aspects of our life together. For instance, when I read the passage above from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, I think of the notes in a piece of music, each unique, and in many cases clashing with other notes. There may appear to be division. Ultimately though, there is some kind of resolution. There must be. For the piece of music to be tolerable to our ears, the notes must interact in a way that leads to a common purpose. In a larger piece of music, that resolution will often return to the original theme of the piece.

What is a church's original theme? What is its purpose? What is the compelling vision that causes dissonance to resolve, bringing all the members together in a unified sound? Many times, that clear sense of purpose is lost as years go by.

Even as Trinity celebrates 250 years of history, we might also ask ourselves if our purpose, as defined by Scripture, has been eclipsed by other priorities. Until that theme is heard again clearly, it will be difficult to bring resolution to dissonance.

Steve Kolb, Minister of Music



The Diocesan Connection



Connecting the people and parishes of the

Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia

Episcopal Youth Event 2011: An AMAZING Experience in Community

Fourteen individuals from the Diocese of Southern Virginia traveled by bus with the other dioceses of Province III to the 2011 Episcopal Youth Event on the campus of Bethel University in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota during June 21st-27th. The Episcopal Youth Event is a triennial gathering of youth and youth leaders from all over the Episcopal Church and takes place in the year before General Convention.

Highlights of the week included an opening Eucharist with Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, an incredible keynote address and workshops led by Dr. Rodger Nishioka of Columbia Theological Seminary, and an inspiring worship service with Bishop Eugene Sutton of Maryland. Throughout the week, we had the opportunity to engage in short-term mission and outreach projects, make new friends from all over the Episcopal Church especially the dioceses of West Virginia and Virginia, attend a variety of thoughtful and fun workshops, and sing our hearts out with the incredible music team. The drive provided stops in Chicago as well as the Mall of America. This was an incredible opportunity for community building and leadership development for our youth participants.

Those who attended include: Bailey Basden- Emmanuel Virginia Beach, Kortney Bodge- St. Thomas Chesapeake, Erica Cooke- Emmanuel Virginia Beach, Conor Davidson- St. Andrew's Newport News, Adrienne Davis- St. David's Chesterfield, Claudia Hazelwood- Grace Norfolk, Audrey Jerauld- Emmanuel Virginia Beach, Eric Marcolini- St. Andrew's Newport News, Anna Marks- St. Aidan's Virginia Beach, Evan McLaughlin- St. Christopher's Portsmouth, Elizabeth Palmer- Emmanuel Hampton, Nick Sarandria- St. John's Portsmouth, Harper Lewis- St. Andrew's Newport News, Ashley Scruggs- Diocesan Youth Missioner.

Hear what participants have to say:

An amazing, and I mean AMAZING week. — Nick

Our generation has so much potential and so many open doors; we need only take the risks to reach those goals. — Claudia

This trip has been amazing and inspiring. If anyone has a chance to go to EYE in the next three years I definitely recommend going! — Erica

I am watching new friendships develop in a special place. It brings people together from everywhere around the nation and world. In short, it's pretty dope. — Eric

Spent days in an unknown state with only a few people that I know. That is not the fact anymore. I have met a ton of new people from all over the United States. — Evan

Everyone is charged up and ready to apply all we learned in our own communities just as we were charged to do in the closing Eucharist with renewing our Baptism vows and prayers. It has been an incredible experience filled with a reminder of God's love and support for each one of us in our ministries, new friends, and new energy and courage for each one of us. — Harper





What Defines Membership in Trinity Episcopal Church

In the July *Trumpet*, we asked the question, “Who is a member of the church?” We looked at the Episcopal Church’s definition. A member of the Episcopal Church is a *baptized person*.

This month we take another step: What are the various forms of membership that any parish can use to sort through “who is what” in membership. The information is found in the *Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church* (www.episcopalarchives.org/CnC_ToC_2009) in Title I, Canon 17.

You can be a **baptized** member, as noted before. You can be a **baptized confirmed** member if a bishop of the Episcopal Church has confirmed or received you through the laying-on-of-hands. If you are a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the Polish National Catholic Church, the Philippine Independent Church or other Christian churches in full intercommunion with the Episcopal Church, then you are in this status also.

You are a **baptized confirmed communicant** if you receive Holy Communion at least three times in a year. Normally this means at Sunday morning Eucharist, but in the old days such folks were known as “C & E Episcopalians—Christmas and Easter).

An **adult** member in any of these categories is at least 16 years of age.

Many Episcopal churches carry a number of people on the books who have not been at worship in a long time. This creates another category; there may be many baptized confirmed members who are listed as **inactive**. Others who do attend and receive Communion, but who are not givers of record, may be active, but they are not listed as “members in good standing” (you will learn more about this in the September *Trumpet*).

Who makes such determinations? The parish administrator is responsible for keeping records current. Per our bishop’s counsel (and as is customary in the Episcopal Church), the Rector or parish priest, as pastor, works with these records as well as direct pastoral knowledge to decide who fits where.

As your priest, I am working with our soon-to-depart parish administrator, Charles Porter, as well as with Elizabeth LeGrande and Anna Fay Grayson,

previous administrators, on a membership audit to get the records as complete and accurate as possible. We’re going through our membership database and paper-based membership records to be sure that we have all information in hand regarding birth dates, baptism dates, confirmation dates, and current address and email information. Over the years, we may not have gathered all information we needed when you became a part of Trinity Church. So we may be in touch with you directly to seek help in getting the information we need about you or members of your family. Thanks for your help—and thanks to Elizabeth, Anna Fay, Charles for putting together all the records and information they have.

In the September *Trumpet*: **What Is a “Member in Good Standing”?**

Are You Confirmed in the Episcopal Church? Do you want to take this step?

Trinity Church is pleased to offer the opportunity to be confirmed, received (if you have been confirmed as a Catholic or Orthodox background), or if you want to make a public renewal of faith as a confirmed person.

On **Sunday, October 16th**, the Rt. Rev. Jay Magness, bishop suffragan for federal ministries, will be with us in the morning to celebrate the Eucharist and offer the laying-on-of-hands in Confirmation.

Teens and adults wanting more information about taking this step should see Father John as soon as possible. We will have our first preparation session after the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist on **Sunday, August 14th**. He’ll introduce the training series.



The Parish Prayers*

The following people have been placed on the Prayer List at their request or the request of a family member or friend. Please include these intercessions and thanksgivings in your personal devotions.

For our special needs and concerns:

Jane Marshall, Macon Williams, Diana Strelow, Peppy Owens, Judy Leach, Shep Trant, Norm Ream, Chris Porter, Nell Shay, Catherine Blackwood, Valerie Dugan, John Hollowell, Nancy Radcliffe, Ann Dodd, Carol Fitzwater, Walter Jordan III, Susan Cooke, Nell Shay, Randy Bowes, Randolph Pritchard, Betsy Mackenzie, Gerald Wells, Eileen Foster, Dusty & Mitch Ash, Robert Nottingham, Margaret Sharrett, Ellen Esleek, Dick Austin, Shep & Flo Trant, Virginia Andrews, Neale Mayo, Marion Gartman

Our loved ones:

Reon Hillegass, friend of Dean & Peggy Burgess; **Charles Morgan**, brother-in-law of Joe Kozak; **Katy Klein**, mother of Frank Klein; **LaNette Kardokus**, friend of Felicia Sawyer; **Sherry Tomlinson**, friend of Felicia Sawyer; **Sam Lorkiewicz**, grandson of Cora Lorkiewicz; **Henry Lorkiewicz**, brother-in-law of Cora Lorkiewicz; **Muriel Wilson**, friend of Sean Dugan; **Robert E. Whitney**, father of Ron Whitney; **Angela Leary**, sister of Laurie Klein; **Jenny Clayton**, mother-in-law of Peppy Owens; **Dottie Budnick**, sister-in-law of Bob Hunt; **Lynette McLean**, friend of Sue Everett; **John Upton**, brother-in-law of Juliet Quicke; **Walter Meadows**, brother of Cora Lorkiewicz; **Benjamin Williams**, grandson of Dr. & Mrs. Robert McAortor; **Pat Lorkiewicz**, sister-in-law of Cora Lorkiewicz; **Pat Ho**, niece of Cora Lorkiewicz; **Richard Ford**, father of Cindy Ford

For all serving in harm's way: including Barbara Boyd Livreri, Charlie Felps, Justin Lewis, Greg Caron, Frank Sharrett, Paul Byron Radford, and Bob Miller

For all the blessings of this life:

◆ For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this month, especially:

2	Robyn Shepherd	10	James Smith III	Richard Austin	26	Gabrielle Bielenstein	
	Jonathan Vick	12	Robert Korty	20	Allison St. Hilaire	27	McKenzie Cobb
3	Denise Hersh		Alexandra Hardy	23	David Blackwood		Matthew Fleenor
7	Marjorie Eaton	16	Juliet Quicke	25	Russ Powell	30	Mary Andrews
8	Maureen Hook	19	Peggy Burgess		Emily Runyon		

◆ For those celebrating their wedding anniversary this month, especially:

4	Dean & Peggy Burgess	17	Richard & Fran Gill	29	Pete & Pam Kloepfel
7	Steven & Nicole Blackwood	23	Matt & Beverly Matais		
15	Dick & Shirley Fox	25	David & Shelley Williamson		

*If you would like to have your name or the name of a loved one placed on the Prayer List, please call or e-mail the church office.

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that all of us can seek a divine frame of reference. Through prayer, discipleship and forbearing love, we can become, each of us, the person that God made us to be and, together, the church that God desires us to become.

What is your frame of reference in this time?

In Christ,
John+



Please Take Note!

The deadline for the September issue of "The Trumpet" is August 15.



The Last Word (from the Priest-in-Charge)

One of the books I've been reading this summer is a secular title with spiritual impact. In *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*, the author Malcolm Gladwell, a *New York Times* reporter, explores how we humans, by instinct, can have a sense about a person or group without thinking.

Sometimes we know the process as a "gut reaction," but Gladwell says that there's more to the process—and much less than we realize. We just "know" whether, in a dating relationship, the other person is "right" and will be a blessing as a spouse or friend—or not. The same is true for a job-seeker or a potential employer in an interview. There's no advance proof, just a "feeling." Sometimes we take a "rational" approach, and override what our instinct tells us. We try to "figure things out." We can't (most of the time) and we are wrong (much of the time) if we do not pay attention to what we know at the most basic level.

Gladwell tells about the tennis great Vic Braden's experience in coaching many superb tennis athletes. He became an "expert at "double-faulting" when serving. He could predict, with nearly 100 per cent accuracy, when it would happen. Even after studying his own experiences, he still did not *know* why or how he knew that the problem would occur. He *just knew*.

Psychologists have done a lot of work in this area of human cognition. The brain is so complex, processing huge amounts of information and input without being aware that the processing is happening. A focus of study has become the "frame of reference." It's another version of the "cup half full, cup half empty" view that each of us has. If we have a *positive* frame of reference, we can look at a situation with a positive benefit of a doubt. Missed appointment? "Oh, she must be so busy that she forgot." Made a mistake? Let's look beyond it—he's on target most of the time." Problems in a relationship? "I am sure we can find a way to work things out." In a positive frame of reference, we have confidence that good prevails—and, in religious terms, we know that God will guide us into a good outcome.

"...we need to pray that all of us can seek a divine frame of reference."

In a negative frame of reference, we look critically at persons and situations. Did something unexpected happen? The response is, "Well, what do you expect? She never tells us anything." A disagreement? "Oh, that's normal. He's *always* that way—he's so ignorant." From being critical, Gladwell says, the next step—especially when the person doesn't to resolve a problem—is contempt. "She's just nuts." Or, "He's such a liar."

What is your frame of reference? What is the frame of reference guiding this congregation? What about our community or workplace? Our nation? These are far more than psychological questions. There are spiritual questions.

When we think about what Jesus encountered in his ministry, it's intriguing that the outcast, such as tax collectors, the crippled, the sinners and the destitute—all of whom should have a negative frame of reference—view Jesus with hope, trust and faith. They are healed and restored, and are filled with joy. The Pharisees and Sadducees, who are in leadership and often are quite wealthy and respected—and who are looking for the Messiah—are filled with anger and malice. They look for ways to kill Jesus—and, after the resurrection, to kill Peter and Paul and others who witness to the resurrection. They are martyred.

Jesus had a *divine frame of reference* and taught his disciples to see the world—and each other—in that way. As Jesus prayed, "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them" (John 17:25-26). The Church is called to help the world to see things from the divine perspective. We're called to be loving servants to one another and to the world. We're called to seek God's glory, not our own. We're called to be the Church that God designed it to be, not a human institution or organization. We are the Body of Christ in here and now.

As we continue through the changes and challenges of being Trinity Church, we need to pray

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August 2011