

THE CHRONICLE

November, 2007

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november 4TH:
TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK



8 AM – Holy Eucharist , Rite I
9 AM – Family Eucharist
9:45 AM – Education Hour
11:00 AM – Holy Eucharist, Rite II



THE FEAST OF ALL FAITHFUL DEPARTED FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

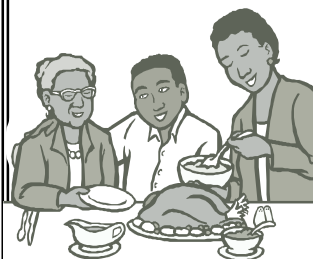
1:45 PM PRAYERS IN MEMORIAL GARDEN
5:45 PM HOLY EUCHARIST IN THE SANCTUARY

NOVEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER:

Nov. 4th - Stewardship Sunday/All Saints' Sunday

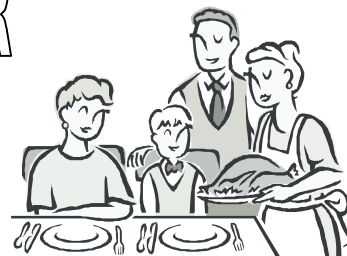
Nov. 11th - Diocesan Convention Report

Nov. 18th - Youth report on the mission trip this summer



ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH
5 pm to 7 pm



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2nd
9:45 AM - ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP



FROM THE REV. TOM COOK...

It was ten years ago this month when I first penned the following article about the gift of the “Middle Way”, and I believe it still has merit in our continuing conversations of what it means to be Episcopalian in a time of such diverse opinions on volatile issues like the interpretation and use of Holy Scripture, authority in the Church, and human sexuality. I hope these words continue to contribute to a positive conversation about our unfolding life in a faithful community.

Fr. Tom

EXTREMISTS FOR A MIDDLE WAY? REFLECTIONS ON A COLLECT FOR RICHARD HOOKER

O God of truth and peace, you raised up your servant Richard Hooker in a day of bitter controversy to defend with sound reasoning and great charity the catholic and reformed religion: Grant that we may maintain that middle way, not as a compromise for the sake of peace, but as a comprehension for the sake of truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

---The Collect for November 3 from *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*

November 3 is the day for the commemoration of Richard Hooker in the Episcopal Church’s calendar of the saints; yet, I wonder... how many Episcopalians today know of Hooker’s contribution to our shared theology?

Hooker produced in the days of Queen Elizabeth (the 16th century) what remains a quintessential and classical statement of Anglican theology and governance. Hooker’s *Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity* argued for the legitimacy of *The Book of Common Prayer* and the catholic (that is, universal) and reformed Christian faith over and against a highly protestant and rather exclusive theology of a great number of the Puritan reformers and schismatic Christians of his day. The work of Hooker and other theologians, as well as the legal and ecclesiastical reforms of Elizabeth’s reign, led to what we term a theology of the *Via Media* - the Middle Way. The Middle Way suggests that what we hold in common in our faith is more important to our communal life than the extreme positions on either side of highly divisive issues.

Anglican Communion is rooted in the shared and corporate life of the community expressed in the theology and worship of *The Book of Common Prayer*. Divisive issues continue within the Church, but the intention is that single issues or disagreements not serve as tests for “true” faith (an illusive ideal at best in the midst of all humanity’s brilliant and varied understandings of the nature of God). Anglicans order their theological lives with Holy Scripture, Church tradition, and the application of human reason. Differences remain, but there is room for all to come together at the center of faith, in the Middle Way, which acknowledges Jesus as Lord in the diversity of human understandings of God.

The collect for Richard Hooker aptly manifests this idea of the Middle Way. Episcopalians are not advocates of wishy-washy theology or failed decision making or “riding the fence.” Episcopalians recognize the diversity of reasoned opinions about God, Holy Scripture, Church tradition, and human experience. The *Via Media*, the Middle Way, is no compromise; it is an acknowledgement of the truth that God alone holds the truth, and our task is not to secure and proclaim our righteousness over and against the supposed unrighteousness of others, to somehow see ourselves as “better” or “more faithful” Christians than others. Rather our vocation is to live faithfully in community, to struggle with the ambiguities of our times, to proclaim a belief in Jesus Christ that makes room for difference while expounding the redeeming love of God in Christ for the whole world.

In this day of extreme positions, when an opinion on a moral stance seems to make the difference in whether you are in or out, saved or damned, righteous or unclean, worthy or worthless, can we not as Anglicans proclaim Christ with a renewed understanding of our Anglican heritage and theology? Can we not live as “Extremists for the Middle Way,” radicals for neither side, but for the universal and redeeming love of Christ? Can we not continue in the blessed diversity of community, all useful parts of the same body (1 Cor. 12)? Some might think we Anglicans would be only rebels without a cause, people with no clear vision of holiness, but I don’t believe so. Besides, it is Christ alone who makes us holy, not our righteous opinions of faith and Scripture. Our cause is what it has always been: to worship God and proclaim to all people the love and redemption found in Jesus Christ.

What godly truths and new understandings of our human existence may become apparent in our own day because we, claiming our Anglican heritage in the family of all Christians, are willing to attend to the Middle Way, willing to converse with and learn from those with whom we differ, willing to admit that unity in Christ does not require uniformity? Without risking the ambiguities of the Middle Way, we will never be open enough to God --- or one another --- to know.



PRAYERS: Bob, Brownie Ulrich, Neal Dyer, Jack DuPrau, Douglas Williams, Jennifer Galioto, Jackie Hogan, John Dougherty, Dorothy Jeanne Dangerfield, Don Hann, Rafael Torch, Richard Kunkel and Gertrude Max. For the birth of Nathaniel Robert Oliver (grandson of Angel and Ofelia Oliver). For Deirdre Whitfield, deacon and seminarian of Trinity Church, and for her family, while she studies for the priesthood at General Theological Seminary in New York City. For the Departed: **Hellen Taylor** For families living with substance abuse issues. For those in Military Service to the nation, and for our Allies, that they may be sustained in times of trial. And for our enemies, that they, with us, may come to know peace.

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Year to Date		SEPTEMBER	
RECEIPTS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Total Income	306,736	290,734	37,881	26,261
EXPENSES				
Total Expenses	315,223	334,442	28,233	29,275

*Copies of the complete treasurer's report are available through the office.

AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRIES ANNUAL CRAFT DISPLAY AND SALE

Two Sundays – November 4th and 11th



On the first and second Sundays of November, Trinity will again sponsor the sale of jewelry, handbags, and other items crafted by villagers in Africa, who will, in turn, directly benefit from the proceeds. Trinity parishioners have traditionally given this project enthusiastic support as a timely (and guilt-free) start on Holiday giving.

ATM is an intermediary ministry between African and American churches of the Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Anglican denominations, providing funds for orphan and refugee relief, missions, and evangelism in East Africa. Children are registered for sponsorship in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda. Support is sent directly to each bishop to provide them school fees, tuition, books, and uniforms.

Display tables of goods for perusal and purchase will be set up in the Parish Hall all morning before and after services. Come browse and buy!

Ann Hubben

SAVE THE DATE - DINNER THEATER



JOSEPH AND HIS AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT: SAT., DEC. 1, 2007

Meet at a home to be designated at 4:30PM, Saturday, December 1st, for fellowship, a full course potluck dinner and then move on to the Media Theater to see Andrew Lloyd Webber's Broadway musical. The cost will be approximately \$32 per person (*to be confirmed*), based on the group rate we will be getting. Each person/couple is asked to bring an appetizer, entrée, or dessert for 10 persons. Sign-up sheets will be in the back of the church and in the church office. Please sign up as soon as possible so we can reserve an appropriate block of seats. Similar events were greatly

enjoyed by all attendees. The food was gourmet, the performances were excellent, and the fellowship was priceless; and we hope for an encore. If there is sufficient interest, we can also schedule a Sunday afternoon matinee in December to attend this performance. Call **Dick Koelle** (610)566-4087 if you have questions; further details will follow in the service leaflet and Friends email distribution.



American Red Cross Blood Drive is Nov. 13th from 2 - 8 p.m

THE CHURCH IN OUR PATH

Dear Fellow Trinity Parishioners

As you are aware, we are in the midst of our Stewardship Campaign at Trinity Church. This conversation is crucial to the life of our church and will determine our course of action for 2008 and beyond.

Please save the date of November 4th to join us at the 10:00 Adult Forum hour to have a follow-up discussion. Between now and then, please read over the survey you recently received as part of the packet of Stewardship information and record your answers honestly. Your responses to this survey will be the foundation for small group table discussions, so please bring your completed survey with you. We also plan to collect these surveys as they are a good source of information for parish-wide discussions, so if you can't make it on the 4th, please send them or drop them off in the church office. Pledge cards will be available at the Forum.

This will also be a time for fellowship as light refreshments will be served. I enthusiastically look forward to seeing you all there.

Sincerely,

*Susan Warren
Vestry Stewardship Chair*

ADULT FORUM

Nov. 4th - Stewardship Sunday

Nov. 11th - Diocesan Convention Report

Nov. 18th - Youth report on the mission trip this summer.

Nov. 25th - To be announced.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS—OCTOBER MEETING

The highlights of this month's meeting include a passed resolution to provide a corporate credit card for **Fr. Tom** to help with purchases made on behalf of the church by the rector to help eliminate the need for reimbursement. Treasurer reported Net Loss of \$8,486 through 9/30/07, which was 19% better than the budgeted amount. Finance Committee continues to review insurance coverage of the church and associated parties (TDCN and ABC).

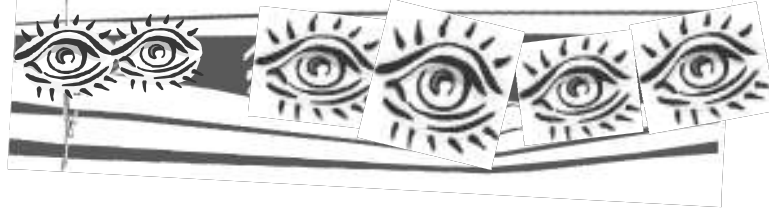
There was a brief discussion regarding parishioners having access to receipts for IRS purposes when larger donations are made of tangible goods. There already is a mechanism in place to hand receipts to **Bill Mullen** to get official church receipts (Charity deductions). The Thrift Shop already has a form for donations.

The vestry has voted to help provide some financial support to **Deirdre Whitfield**, who has four semesters left at General Seminary in NYC. Finance Committee had already discussed this and feels we should support her as a form of Outreach. In the future, Deirdre will have a greater presence to make us a part of her training when possible. Tom intends to involve her more in our parish schedule.

The Memorial gift of a new oriental rug in the Shero Room by **Lois Johnston** in memory of **Tom Johnston** was acknowledged. **Sue Warren**

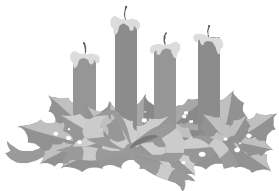


CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS



What would you see if you 'peeked' into the Church School classes any given Sunday morning? You might see **Father Tom** visiting and participating with the children in the classrooms and getting to know each other (*thanks for the M&M's !*). You might glimpse the First/Second Graders singing with **Heather Koelle** for their Tot Choir. You could be lucky enough to learn about the Saints with **Joyce** and the Fifth/Sixth grade teachers as they share their knowledge and inspire the class with enthusiasm about how the Saints relate to our daily lives. Or, observe the artistic pursuits of **Merle Manwaring** as she works with the teachers to help the Third/Fourth grade class to create works of art relating to their Church School lesson. Or, you could catch the joy of the Pre-K/Kindergarten children as they share their favorite family prayer and create their classroom crafts. So, go ahead and take a 'peek' into a Church School classroom – you will be inspired!

This fall, we have the very good problem of huge Sunday school classes. We are thrilled that so many children are attending Sunday School, but it can be a challenge for our teachers to manage such a large group. Parents, please continue to reach out to the teachers to bring snacks and offer to help in the classrooms. We still need helpers and subs. No matter how often you are available, all help is most welcome. Thank you to all the volunteers who make our Sunday School program such a success.



Please join us at the annual Advent Wreath celebration and workshop on Sunday, December 2 at 9:45am in Parish Hall. We will be making Advent wreaths from fresh greens (bring your metal forms from last year if you can find them). New Advent candles and wreath forms will be available for purchase. **Jennifer Donlevie and Kristin Ehmer** have kindly agreed to coordinate this wonderful event. Thank you both!

Please contact Church School Co-Chairs **Robin Shields and Anne Hollyer** with questions or to volunteer to help. Robin can be reached at rsields55@yahoo.com or 610.565.5414, and Anne can be reached at abhjwh@comcast.net or 610.891.0291.



ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER



The annual Trinity Church Turkey Dinner will be held Sunday, November 18th from 5 to 7PM in the Parish Hall. Volunteers are needed for donations of food, cooking of turkeys and side dishes, carving, set-up, serving and clean-up. Proceeds will go to St. Mary's Food Cupboard in Chester for Christmas turkeys to be given to needy families. Contact the event organizer, **Jean Arnold** at (610)-497-1930 or ajeana@excite.com or Fellowship Chairman **Dick Koelle** at (619)566-4087 if there are any questions. All are urged to attend this meaningful Outreach/Fellowship event. Ticket sales and sign-up sheets for attendance and volunteering will be in the back of the church and Church Office; PLEASE sign up as soon as possible – the organizing of this event is a major effort and a lot of help is needed. You may sign up and pay at the event if someone is not available to sell tickets. Cost, which is optional for those who contribute turkeys, and which is unchanged from recent years: Adults - \$6, Children - \$3, and Families - \$15.

An Invitation to Worship on the Feast of All Faithful Departed

From the beginning of the Church, Jesus' followers have held that we live in communion with the saints, living and dead, with those who walk now by faith and those who have gone before us. In honor of the life shared through Trinity Church for the many generations of Christians who have served God in this community, and in memory of those who have recently departed this life, Trinity Church will hold services of prayer and of Holy Eucharist on Thursday, November 2nd, for the Feast of All Faithful Departed, and make special Prayers of Intention for those departed and buried from this parish since All Saints' Day, 2006.

A midday service of prayer will take place at 1:45 p.m. in the Memorial Garden (or in the sanctuary in the event of inclement weather) to especially remember those whose remains are laid to rest in the soil of the parish. Holy Eucharist will be celebrated in the sanctuary at 5:45 p.m. with memorial prayers offered.

All are invited to these services of remembrance, yet in the event that schedules or distance leave you unable to participate, please know that prayers will be offered and loved ones remembered on that day.



Nathaniel Robert Oliver was born on October 8, 2007. He is the son of **Robbie and Debbie Oliver** and grandson of the proud grandparents, **Ofelia and Angel Oliver**. He was born weighing 5 pounds 13 ounces and 18" long.



On Saturday, October 6th, there will be a an informal lawn service to commemorate the Blessing of the Animals 10 a.m. on Trinity's circle drive by Fr. Tom Cook. The special blessing is really a Thanksgiving to God for the richness of God's whole creation, especially the domestic animals that brighten and give joy to our journey.

Mary Anderson

St. Francis wrote a Cantic of the Creatures, an ode to God's living things. "*All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures.*"

*Lets Give Thanks
For our Ministries.*



Many Thanks to all who participated in the annual Pasta Dinner held on Sunday evening, October 14th: To Executive Chef, **Carol Hann**, Kitchen Manager, **Jean Arnold, Barbara Nagel, Greg Piscorik, Kristina Hann, Michael Reeves, Mike Sharpfish, Nick Shields, Johanna Laxton, Caitlyn Gardner, Anne, Claire, and Phoebe Hollyer, June and Natasha Clifford, Joe, Jon, and Jordan German, and Simon, Brendan, and Michaela Whitelaw** who helped with set-up, serving, and clean-up; to **June Clifford, Mary Laxton, Chris and Claire Larson, Robin Shields, Ann Hubben, Doris Condren, Sue Warren, Dick Koelle** who bought desserts and to the **Pipan/Whitelaws** who brought salad reinforcements when we ran out; and to **Heather Koelle**, who provided us with musical ambiance with. (And to whomever else assisted and we inadvertently omitted from these acknowledgements.) The event was attended by 116 persons, including a number of new members; this is a significant increase over the 76 who attended last year's event. Gross receipts were \$396; proceeds will go towards a Youth Group program planned for next summer.

NEW YOUTH GROUP MEETING

**New Youth Group!
Meets First Wednesday of the month**

Meeting Wednesday November 7th, 6:30-7:30 pm

Fellowship

Music

Pizza

We'll talk about a movie night

and a

visit to City Team Ministries !

We are excited about our new youth event. All youth (grades 7 to 12) are invited to come on the first Wednesday of each month for food, fellowship, music and fun. Come, eat, have fun and help plan future events on Wednesday, November 7th in the Youth Room (where J2A meets) from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Contact **Paul Oestreich** (pauloest@rcn.com) or **Bella Englebach** (benglebach@aol.com) for more information.

COMMENTS FROM ONE OF OUR YOUTH.....

A few weeks ago, I attended a Youth Group meeting at the Trinity Episcopal Church of Swarthmore. This was the first Youth Group meeting with our new rector, Father Tom Cook. During the summer, some of the youth of Trinity Church went on a mission trip to North Carolina. We talked about those experiences, which included learning a new way of worshipping. While in North Carolina, we learned a lot of "praise" songs, and during the youth group meeting, we shared those with everyone there. I think that everyone really enjoyed singing a new type of music and experiencing a different way of worship. Everyone there really enjoyed the meeting, saying that it was "awesome", "lots of laughs", "full of great people", and, the most important "great food". The youth group officially meets the first Wednesday of each month, but the youth attendees enjoyed it so much that we are wanting more frequent meetings! The youth group meeting was a great success, and it's a great place to have fun with the youth in the church.

Johanna Laxton

