

## Reflections from the Rector...

Have you ever had **tunnel vision**? It usually happens to us when we're feeling passionate about something, or in the midst of a crisis. Tunnel vision, by definition, is when you can **ONLY** see things from **ONE** point of view. Political arguments are often the clash of opposing tunnel visions. So, too, are family fights... family feuds. There are hurt feelings all the way around, along with the flat-out refusal to see things from any other point of view **BECAUSE** I already know that ***I am RIGHT***... and so ***YOU are WRONG***. In these cases, a line gets drawn in the sand and **EVERYONE** becomes "***US vs. THEM***." Everyone is either friend or enemy. And people who try to stay out of the middle become exhausted by the push-and-pull from both sides. What to do?

In the midst of crisis – for instance when someone close to you is experiencing a medical crisis, and you are frustrated because the professional people who are supposed to be “fixing” things don't know (or necessarily care) what this doctor or that doctor thinks. And so we have the “lone ranger” syndrome. In this kind of situation, you might find yourself right smack in the middle... You **KNOW** that you have to be the **ADVOCATE** for your loved one lying in that bed or being scheduled for one test after another. And that puts you in between all the medical experts who aren't talking with each other because each of them has tunnel vision. What to do?

There are many possible ways of trying to reconcile those in The Tunnel Vision Wars. One is to declare a “time-out,” where everyone agrees to back off... Give everyone some space & time to simmer down in the hopes that a genuine conversation & healing can begin. Another possibility is for the person who is serving as advocate (of the one most vulnerable, with the least amount of power) **INSISTS** that all parties sit down & talk with one another, sharing ideas & possible solutions.

A third possibility is for the person invested with the most power & authority (the leader, the parent, the boss, the primary care, etc.) to declare “**ENOUGH IS ENOUGH**”... to set very clear & non-negotiable behavioral boundaries for everyone involved. Is that sort of treating people like children? Sometimes. But then sometimes even the most mature of us can be out of control & acting like a child. And then someone has to step in & be the adult, which probably involves making a decision (or multiple decisions) that are not going to win them any popularity contests. Not a fun position to be in, is it?

Most of us do not enjoy conflict. Some try to avoid it at **ALL** costs. Some think if they ignore it, it will just go away. Sometimes people feel like they're in loyalty-bind, and to hold a person(s) accountable on inappropriate behavior is somehow being disloyal or even an act of betrayal. But in a family, a work environment, a community or an organization no **ONE** person can be **MORE** important than anyone else. It's not healthy to sacrifice the “whole” to protect one of the “parts.” And naming this can make the entire conflict intensify... for awhile.

What's the best way to “move on,” to “let it go,” to resist the temptation that **THIS** conflict (whatever “**THIS conflict**” is at any given point in time) is the only thing going on in the world that needs our time & attention & energy... Yes, it is possible for the “whole” to get so focused on any given conflict that the “whole system” takes on tunnel vision. So what can we do? Focus on something else. Focus on something outside of my own thoughts & feelings & relationships. Focus on something that will make a positive difference in this world... one minute, one day, one person at a time. Refuse to get sucked back into the vortex of negativity,

“us” vs. “them,” resist/refuse to have your vision **narrowed** rather than **expanded**. Where are we headed? Where is **GOD** leading us? What is **GOD** calling us to **DO** and to **BE**? Yes, there may be a clump of trees dying right there in that spot... but there's also a whole forest of trees that are solid & healthy & growing. The choice is ours... it's always ours. So let's choose prayerfully, thoughtfully, wisely.

Pam +

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## All parish meetings night

Many of us have participated in the first two months of our All Parish Meetings Night... For the January gathering there were 48 of us; for the February gathering there were 33. Numbers will fluctuate somewhat depending upon which groups are meeting any given month. So far, in **January** the following groups met:

- Worship & Music Advisory Committee planned through Easter weekend.
- The Thrift Shop and the Outreach Committee met together, exploring all that they have in common & planning where, when & how they might join together for even greater service ministry to those in need!
- The Building & Grounds Committee met, focusing on the plans for expanding & updating the kitchen & Aldrich Hall (AH).
- Bethany Carpenter, Lisa Sargent & son John met to explore possibilities for a J2A Pilgrimage in the summer of 2009.
- Welcoming Newcomers Program met with a majority of people serving as Greeters at both the 8am & 9:30am Sunday liturgies. They reviewed the job description for Greeters & evaluated what's working well and where we need to be more attentive.
- The Capital Campaign Committee met & brainstormed how to best educate & invite the parish to participate in the number of projects we intend to fund through this Capital Campaign... And declared Roger Cichy & Scott Fraser an unbeatable team for their multi-media presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting.

In **February**, the following groups met:

- The Altar Guild met & brainstormed people who might be interested in serving on one of the teams who are responsible for setting up for all worship services for one week each month. (If YOU are interested, please contact Cindy Averill at 884-1193 or email her at: [jobiesplace@yahoo.com](mailto:jobiesplace@yahoo.com) .
- Members of the Outreach Committee met with Christopher & Megan Picozzi, serving as coordinators for the 2008 Episcopal Charities Pledge Drive.
- The Building Committee met, continuing their conversation about permits, etc. for the kitchen expansion/bathroom renovation projects.
- The Communications Committee mapped out an advertising strategy in local print media markets beginning with Palm Sunday through October.
- Leaders of Vacation Bible School (VBS) met to plan for this year's adventure!
- Diane Weeks & Cynthia Connors, co-chairs of our Welcoming Newcomers Committee, finally got to meet each other for the first time! They planned for the next several months activities, events, etc. that would be most beneficial to welcome & integrate newcomers to Trinity.

- Many members of the Christmas Bazaar Committee met, brainstorming ideas for gift baskets & how best to involve the most people in the parish as humanly possible.
- Because Bill Hurry was the only person present for the Planned Giving Meeting and June Guglielmi was the only person present for the Parish Life/Pastoral Care meeting they actually joined forces & generated a lot of very creative ideas for Pastoral Care! And June wins the prize for the most entertaining report of her “committee” to the larger group at the end of the evening!

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, the following groups will be meeting:

- **LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS** (those who are trained to take Communion to shut-ins, those in nursing homes & those in hospitals... Interested? And/Or, we're also in need of people to be trained as Chalice Bearers for all three weekend services. Please talk with Rev. Pam A.S.A.P. **WE NEED YOU!!!**)
- The Outreach Committee's focus will be on the **FOOD CLOSET**.
- The **Building & Grounds Committee** will continue to focus on the kitchen expansion, etc.
- **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE** will meet to brainstorm ways to improve the weekly bulletin, the monthly newsletter, and our website.
- **ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMMITTEE** & **NEWCOMERS COMMITTEE** will pool their resources to plan Sunday morning opportunities, especially having to do with helping people new to the Episcopal Church & Trinity specifically to get their bearings & to continue their journey of spiritual growth in the church. We will also talk about spring/summer book studies.
- **PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE** will be focusing on events/activities for the whole family... young, not-so-young, men, women, children, youth, young adults... ALL of us!
- **FUNDRAISERS** will be focusing on the Yard Sale and the Golf Tournament & Dinner, setting dates for both events.
- **BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE** will be meeting to begin plans for our fall pledge drive to the General Operating Budget.

But there's something in all this that peaks your interest! Pick something... anything... sit in a meeting. It's like trying on clothes in the store... see how it “fits.” If it doesn't, try a different group the next month. Remember: it is just as important to discover where your limitations are as it is to discover where your gifts / abilities / passions live.

Our format is this:

- We meet on the **LAST MONDAY NIGHT of each month from 7 – 9pm.**
- We begin all together in Aldrich Hall **promptly at 7pm, with prayer.**
- The various committees claim a corner or a room upstairs for their meeting **from 7:15 - 8:15pm**
- **At 8:15pm we will re-convene in Aldrich Hall, and each group BRIEFLY reports back to the entire body.** We will conclude with the service of **Compline** – a very brief, beautiful prayer service for the end of the day.
- **EACH GROUP/COMMITTEE:**
  - \*\*\* Each **CHAIRPERSON** or **COORDINATOR** must have a prepared agenda, preferably emailed/snail-mailed ahead of time.
  - \*\*\* Each group/committee will need a **RECORDING SECRETARY** who will take minutes of the meeting & will make sure that every member (AND Rev. Pam) receives a written/electronic copy of them. As always, there will be both **FOOD & BEVERAGES AVAILABLE.**

# Holy Week & Easter 2008

**HOLY WEEK** is the shortest season of the Church Year – it's ***ONE WEEK!***

+++ Holy Week **BEGINS** with **PALM SUNDAY:**  
**March 16<sup>th</sup> this year, at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.**

On this day, we read from the Gospel from Matthew – ***TWICE.***

- The first reading from Matthew (21:1-11) tells the story of Jesus entering the holy city of Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, with people singing & cheering & they spread their own cloaks on the ground – and many spread branches of PALM – as a sign that Jesus was the King, the Christ, the Messiah of God. We bless & distribute palm leaves as a way of participating in Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We too sing glad songs celebrating Jesus as the Messiah!
- The second reading from Matthew (26:14 – 27:66) is the Passion Gospel from Matthew. The "**PASSION**" of Jesus refers to the all-inclusive events of this one week in the life of Jesus – the betrayal of Jesus by Judas, then the gathering of his closest disciples in the Upper Room where they broke bread & drank from one cup, commemorating this night of all nights... the watch throughout the night in the Garden where the other disciples betrayed Jesus too... they couldn't even stay awake throughout the night to keep watch for danger... like Roman soldiers. In the early hours of dawn, when Judas takes the Roman soldiers to the Garden where they arrest Jesus & take him to Pilate, and then Herod, and back to Pilate again... where Pilate offers to release Jesus but the crowd cries out with one voice, "Let him be crucified! Let him be crucified!" And so Pilate has Jesus taken away by soldiers who strip him, put a painful crown of thorns on his head, spit on him, **AND THEN** they made him carry his own cross to the hill known as Golgotha, where they nailed him to the cross & crucified him. Once they're sure Jesus is dead, his family takes his body to a tomb... a cave, provided by the rich man named Joseph of Arimathea. They rolled an enormous stone in front of the tomb so that no one could desecrate the body.
- This is such a powerful & riveting account... if you really allow yourself to listen, to **HEAR** it.

**We have no meetings at all during Holy Week so as not to distract us, not to rescue us from how disturbing this week is, so we might really honest-to-God prepare for what is to come... Easter.**

+++ **MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> at 7PM** we gather in the church to hear how, at the Last Supper, Jesus startled his disciples by washing their feet & talked about how each and every one of them was to **SERVE** others, **IN HIS NAME**.

As proof that washing the disciples' feet was shocking, throwing them off-balance, Whenever we've tried to do the ceremony of foot washing on Maundy Thursday, we've had to pull teeth to get anyone to participate. Touching one another's feet is not something we would do... it is truly an act of intimacy. We become uncomfortable, shy, anxious... and we will do just about anything to avoid this. So, for the past couple of years we've invited people to come forward to have their hands washed in the baptismal font, and then massaged with lotion. **THAT'S** not necessarily comfortable either, but it draws a lot more people than touching feet! So it's a beginning... hopefully, someday, we'll risk being so vulnerable with one another that we'll actually touch each other's feet.

At the end of the Maundy Thursday liturgy, we strip the altar bare. We have a peaceful, little garden set up in the corner to the left of the altar. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex, divided into one hour increments for 2 or more people at a time to **"KEEP WATCH WITH JESUS" throughout the night**. Long ago, those first disciples betrayed Jesus by sleeping rather than watching & waiting with him. Will we do the same? Or will we be faithfully present, staying awake, and keep watch with this man... this Incarnate One... this God-in-a-human-body?

The Watch in the garden concludes at 8am with Morning Prayer. So, let's say that you've kept watch in the garden (always with at least 2 people) from midnight to 2am... We would be very glad to see you again at 8am for Morning Prayer... And we'll even have coffee & donuts for you afterwards.

+++ **GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm** we again gather in the church for a brief & solemn liturgy, focusing on the cross. We receive Communion from the Reserved Sacrament (wafers that have already been consecrated – blessed – in a full liturgy of the Holy Eucharist). We leave the church in silence.

+++ **THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup> at 7pm** is **THE GRAND CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS THE CHRIST!** Bring any bells you may have with you to this service... We'll ring them exuberantly at the proclamation: "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" And the congregation responds with one voice, **"The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!"**

(And there will be CAKE in Aldrich Hall afterwards!)

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**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be a rehearsal for The Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday morning at 9am. We will rehearse first the procession, with the singing of the Exsultet. Then we will rehearse with all those who will be reading Scripture lessons.

**Easter Morning Schedule:** 6am Ecumenical Sunrise Service at Horseshoe Dam  
8am & 10am Festive Choral Eucharist