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TOWER

A Communication Channel of the
Transfiguration

JUNE 2009

We are a community of Christians in fellowship with each other and Jesus Christ. We gather for spiritual guidance and fellowship by participating together in liturgy, prayer, and traditions. We are committed to providing an atmosphere characterized by freedom, openness, and mutual support for the spiritual journeys of individuals, families, and future generations.



Dear Friends,

The month of June tends to remind us of light. Each day it seems to stay light longer, but as we rejoice in this light with additional opportunities of recreation and being outdoors, we need not forget our own spiritual enlightenment.

The dark winds hovering at creation's edge, spirit awakening, opened the darkness to light. The Easter Vigil proclaimed this beginning when God's breath spoke fullness as creation completed its ordered Word. Even though Pentecost Day was May 31st, we cannot really see Pentecost unless we have seen the beginning spirit-filled world awakened to light. This is the beginning of all things announced in Genesis, and the Spirit of God was there.

We know then that God is here already. The Spirit of God stirs deep within our earth, for our earth is holy. It is the tangible presence of God's mercy and love. We know too that God has called us by name and claimed us from the beginning even as God chose God's only begotten Son. We know too that, on Pentecost, God has beckoned from nothingness a new thing. In hope we pray the words of Psalm 51: *"Create in me, O God, a new heart, and a steadfast spirit sustain in me. Do not take your holy spirit from me but give me back the joy of your salvation. A willing spirit sustain in me."*

Listening to the first words of Genesis and hearing in it Psalm 51: "let there be light." It was, like creation's edge, a journey from darkness to light. It was a covenant of faithfulness begotten by God's blowing like creation itself. For Jesus Christ had given his life, freely entering the darkness as the first word split darkness from light. He was plunged into the darkness of the tomb. In the midst of that darkness God spoke again: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Spirit-filled joy is the mark of the resurrection, and it is the gift at Pentecost too because Easter and Pentecost are made of the same fabric. Spirit-filled joy is a new innocence begotten by God. We are marking a full cycle and the completion of the fifty days of joy. Everything that was unfinished in Lent is now complete. The very uncertainties lurking within the timid souls of Lent is borne away at Easter's fiftieth day.

The ancient hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* captures the reason of Pentecost. It tells us that the Spirit's anointing is the font of life and the fire of love, the rising light of our senses and virtue's firm hold.

There is nothing that we cannot do, nothing we cannot think, no one that we cannot love, because we are the beloved and God has set us free.

In this age when many things seem conquered and broken, when the tears of oppression and the smoke of wars rise to the heavens, we know that reality is in fact different because God has destined the world for something better. Our proclamation of Pentecost joy is establishing that new order and inviting humanity to a new awareness of their destiny. That destiny like the very beginning of creation is to echo the creator and to know the moving of the spirit.

Our gathering as church begins with creation's course of harmony, a perfect acknowledgment of God: true worship. For when we worship we are doing creation again. We are listening to the Spirit deep within the frame of our earthly existence. Look to the earth, look to the heavens and catch the echo of God's voice as it was in the beginning: the first sound. Worship does this. It is living out creation in harmony and balance. It is the acknowledgment of who we are and where we are going. And thus we are setting things aright. We are taking to ourselves the first sound, the sound of the Spirit hovering over the abyss, and celebrating a world renewed. Death shall have no more power. The forces of destruction and decay shall not triumph. The very fragile fabric of human life shall become strong. This is more than a chanting of hymn texts or the recitation of creeds. It is in fact the right order of things. True worship is about announcing the world as it shall be in God and as it was at the beginning. If we listen to the voice of the Spirit, we will know not only who we are but what we are called to.

Our Fifty Days of Easter joy are passed now, but the alleluia is not silent. Enjoy this wonderful and bright month of June.

in His peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sr. Gary". The signature is written in black ink and features a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

TRINITY SUNDAY

*Go, ye, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, Baptizing Them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Matthew 28*

The festival of Trinity Sunday is of comparatively recent institution And is observed in the Western Church only, the day being kept in the Eastern Church as the festival of all Holy Martyrs. Originally, as with other Sundays following the Ember vigil, this day was left vacant, and from the eighth to the fourteenth century it was treated as the octave of Pentecost. The institution of the festival of the Holy Trinity made the octave end, as the Easter octave originally did, on Saturday. From quite early times, some of the clergy in various places initiated annual festivals in honor of the Trinity, but in the eleventh century this practice discouraged as unnecessary, since the doctrine was recognized in the daily worship of the Church in the Gloria Patri. It would seem that at this period some churches chose the Sunday before Advent for their festival of the Trinity, while others celebrated it I this octave of Pentecost. This day became increasingly observed as Trinity Sunday, and by 1334 it was accepted by the whole Church. It seemed the most appropriate day since it completed the liturgical commemorations of the life of Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit during the first half of the Church's year by a commemoration of the central Christian doctrine that the One God exists in Three Persons and One Substance.

In England, the feast was especially popular perhaps because of its association with Thomas Becket, who was consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury in the octave of Pentecost in 1162. In English parishes processions were held I which the children wore garlands and the choirs sang special anthems, while in London the judges and great law officers of the crown, together with the lord mayor, aldermen and common council of the city, attended the divine service in St. Paul's Cathedral and heard a servon preached by the lord mayor's chaplain. At this time, the Book of Common Prayer allows the old Sarum use in reckoning the succeeding Sundays as after Trinity instead of as after Pentecost as we do today.

Church News

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

2009 CAPITAL FUND RAFFLE

GRAND PRIZE: ONE WEEK (NOV. 29TH-DEC.5TH)

AT THE SEA MIST RESORT CONDOMINIUMS

MASHPEE, MA (CAPE COD)

We are now selling tickets for a Time Share on the Cape which has been donated by one of our parishioners. Tickets are \$10.00. The purchase of a ticket entitles you to a complimentary Spaghetti Dinner and Band Concert which will be held on September 19, 2009 at the church. Winner need not be present to win. Our goal is to sell 1000 tickets. Please contact David Brierley or any other Vestry Member, or call the church office to make your purchase. Extra tickets will be available if you would like to offer them to your friends. We hope to have many people participate in this opportunity to win a fall get-away .

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Diocesan Scholarship Fund: Information and applications may be obtained from the Diocesan Website – www.episcopalri.org. The deadline for applications is June 15, 2009.

Ralph Clifton Patton Scholarship: Any college student from our Parish may apply. For information, please contact Fr. Lemery.

FOOD CLOSET

Please don't forget our Food Closet this summer. In addition to non-perishable foods and canned goods, health and beauty aids and baby items are always needed. There are baskets at the back of the church in which to leave these items. Your support is very much appreciated.

SUNDAY SCHOOL / NURSERY PROGRAM

Volunteer teachers are still needed for Fall 2009. Anyone interested ~ please contact Sue Blakely 401-641-3373 (cell).

June 5 ~ SAINT BONIFACE

Boniface totally changed the map of Europe. His continual battles against paganism and his establishment of a proper church structure, with bishoprics and religious houses, brought order as well as religion to Germany. Born in Crediton in 680 and christened Winfred, he felt called to evangelize Germany, 'the land of our fathers, whose inhabitants are of our own blood'. After several false starts he managed to get established in 719 in 'Roman Germany', Thuringia, the Rhineland and Bavaria, where Christianity still survived as a struggling faith. He faced paganism head-on by felling the Oak of Thor at Geismar, near Fritzlar, and by showing that the old gods had no power he won many converts from paganism. He brought over monks and nuns from England for the schools and monasteries he founded, and created at Fulda a northern rival to the Abbey of Monte Cassino. He had been the bishop responsible for Germany since 722 but in 747 the Pope made him Archbishop of Mainz, a position he finally resigned because he was drawn back to his first love and felt called to evangelize 'barbarian Germany', Frisia and Saxony, which was entirely pagan.

Already Boniface had earned his place as one of the founders of Christian Europe and his martyrdom in pursuit of his last great goal seems oddly like an afterthought. His band of missionaries began by reclaiming areas lost to Christianity but by 755 they had moved on into North East Frisland which had never been evangelized. They were remarkably successful and many people were baptized. Boniface therefore planned a confirmation at Dokkum. It was here that he and his companions had camped beside the river, where they were set upon by an armed mob and slaughtered.

St. Boniface's body was taken to his abbey at Fulda and there became the center of pilgrimage. He left behind a Germany tied into civilized Europe and his diocesan organization survives even today. 'The Apostle of Germany' certainly earns Christopher Dawson's judgment that he 'had a deeper influence on the history of Europe than any Englishman who ever lived'.

FALL CRAFT SHOW



We are looking for donations of gift items for our Fall Craft Show Raffle Table on October 24th, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Any of the following new items would be greatly appreciated.

- GIFT CARDS/CERTIFICATES to local restaurants, retail stores (i.e. Home Depot, Beauty Salons, Department Stores, etc.) or even accommodations for get-away weekends.
- GIFT BASKETS
- LARGE TICKET ITEMS (i.e. Television Sets, etc.)

We would like any donated items to be brought in and given to any Vestry Member as soon as possible so that we can start selling raffle tickets ahead of time. All large ticket donations should be brought to the attention of Sue Blakely. If you know of or are a crafter, this would be a good chance to sell your wares.

Of course we will need volunteers to work in the kitchen and at the bake table, and help out with the raffle. If you would like to volunteer to be a part of the Craft Show, or have any questions, please call Sue at 401-641-3373.

Thank you!

JUNE 2009

Summer Church Schedule
Sunday Services

June 7th – September 6th
Holy Eucharist Rite II

One Service Only – 9:00 a.m.



Weekly

Tuesdays and Fridays:	9 – 11:00 a.m.	Food Closet
Wednesday Evenings:	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Food Closet
Thursdays Evenings:	7:30 p.m.	CODA Meeting
Friday Evenings:	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
Saturdays:	9:00 a.m.	Altar Guild

Please Note: The Vestry Meeting this month will be held on Tuesday, June 16th at 7:00 p.m.

During the months of July and August there will be one issue of the Tower. Church announcements and news regarding upcoming events will be posted on the Bulletin Board.

June Servers

Holy Eucharist Rite II - 9:00 a.m.

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| 6-7 | <u>Reader.</u>
<u>Greeter</u>
<u>Altar Guild</u>
<u>Ushers</u> | Carol Brierley
Jacqui Poore
Group 4
David Brierley & Vin DiGiulio |
| 6-14 | <u>Reader</u>
<u>Greeter</u>
<u>Altar Guild</u>
<u>Ushers</u> | Harriett Dever
Leta Shepard
Group 1
Audrey Rose & Bruce Schortmann |
| 6-21 | <u>Reader</u>
<u>Greeter</u>
<u>Altar Guild</u>
<u>Ushers</u> | Ed Deán
Marie Barrett
Group 2
Ed Dean & Karl Nestlerode |
| 6-28 | <u>Reader</u>
<u>Greeter</u>
<u>Altar Guild</u>
<u>Ushers</u> | Doug Barrett
Luanne Maurico
Group 3
Christopher Ash & Orville Forbes |

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Services will resume September 13th