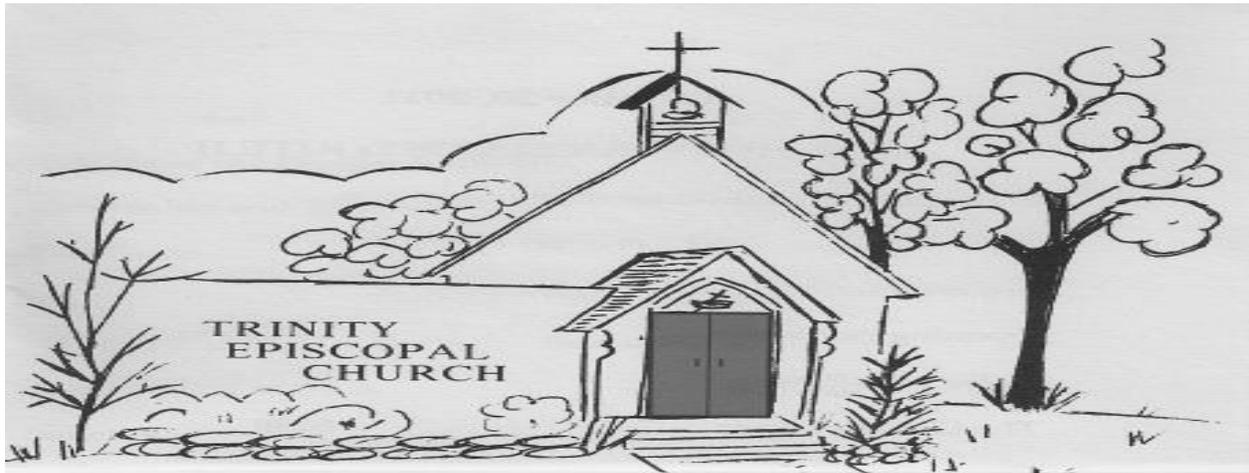


TRINITY TIDINGS

100 Harwood, Lebanon, MO

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From Behind the Altar

A few years ago a newcomer to The Episcopal Church asked me about the use of holy (blessed) water. I wrote the following article for the newsletter at the time. Since there are now a good number of people in the congregation who are new to The Episcopal Church, I decided that I would once again dedicate my article to the subject.

Holy Water, that is, water that has been blessed by a bishop or priest is a sacramental. A sacramental is a sacred sign that the Church has instituted to help Christians prepare for and receive the sacraments of the Church. A sacramental is similar to a sacrament but does not confer the grace of the Holy Spirit in the

unambiguous and certain way that a sacrament does.

It is important to make a distinction between a sacramental and a sacrament. A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as a sure and certain means by which members of the Church receive God's grace, which is God's undeserved favor. God's grace forgives sins, enlightens minds, stirs hearts, and strengthens wills. (Catechism, Book of Common Prayer)

The two great sacraments of the Church are Holy Baptism and The Holy Eucharist. Holy Baptism and the Holy Eucharist are considered necessary for salvation in the Anglican tradition. The other sacraments are

penance, unction, confirmation, holy matrimony, and ordination.

The blessings of crosses, ashes (Ash Wednesday), medals, statues, icons, and use of holy water are all sacramentals that can contribute to the devotion and faithfulness of the individual Christian. They are not essential like sacraments, but are considered helpful.

The use of water in religion is very ancient. Water is the natural element for cleansing, and hence its use was common in almost every faith to denote interior purification.

Among the Greeks and Romans, the sprinkling of water was an important feature of religious ceremonies. Cities were purified by its use, in solemn processions. Fields were prepared for planting by being blessed with water. Among the Egyptians the use of water was even more common; the priests being required to bathe in it twice every day and twice every night that they might thereby be sanctified for their religious duties.

Among the Jews the sprinkling of the people, the sacrifices, and the sacred vessels was enjoined by the regulations laid down by the sacred writers in the books of Exodus and Leviticus; and it was undoubtedly from these practices of the Mosaic Law that the Church took many of the details of her ritual in regard to holy water.

It is not exactly certain when the use of holy water became common place in the early Church. However, it quickly became the practice in lots of places for Christians to take water from the baptismal font at church

home with them for devotional purposes after the celebration of baptisms at Easter and Pentecost. By the fourth century, prayers were provided for the setting aside (blessing) of water at Mass to be used by the faithful to remember their baptisms and to take home with them to extend ritually their participation in the sacraments of the Church.

In many churches holy water can found at the entrance of the church. Some Christians choose to place one of their fingers in the font and then trace the sign of the cross on their bodies. In other places, the faithful are sprinkled with holy water before the liturgy as a reminder of their need to be purified before the sacred liturgy is offered to the Most Holy God.

If any member of the parish would like a container of holy (blessed) water to use in their devotions at home, please let me know. Also, during the seven weeks of Easter, I will keep blessed (holy) water in the baptismal fount. Members of the congregation can use the water to sign themselves with the cross or simply touch the water with their hand as a way of remembering that is by and through baptism that God has made us a part of his divine life.

Father Miller

Altar Guild

This Easter we will be using the newly purchase altar items in memory of Betty Donnelly. These were purchased through

gifts given to the church to honor Betty's life at Trinity. Betty was a devoted member of Trinity and loved by her church family. Betty will be remembered this Easter and at each worship service as we use the chalice and paten, Gospel book holder, cruets and flower vases purchased in her memory. Father Miller will also be wearing a new white chasuble and stole also purchased with memorial gifts in memory of Betty.

Donations to the flower fund for palms and Easter lilies are requested. Please sign up on the Flower Chart on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Karen Miller

Holy Week/Easter at Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday Liturgy (March 20)

10:00 a.m.

Wednesday in Holy Week (March 23)

5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday Liturgy & Stripping of Altar (March 24)

6:00 p.m.

Good Friday Liturgy (March 25) (Fast Day)

6:00 p.m.

Mass of the Resurrection, Holy Baptism, and Renewal of Baptismal Vows (March 27)

10:00 a.m.

Crosslines Report February 2016

A special thanks to everyone who contributed to the Crosslines food drive. As of March 1, Trinity had contributed 148 food items. The needs for March are peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix, and pancake syrup.

Crosslines Ministry saw an increase in need from 547 families served in January to 616 families in February. Viola Blankenship, Crosslines' director, predicts that there will be an increase in need since the food stamp program is going to be eliminating service to many parents. Parents will need to work or volunteer 80 hours a month to remain eligible. Having the Ozark Food Harvest increase from one delivery a month to two deliveries will be of great assistance.

Crosslines is working on developing a website that will have current activities, hours of operation, current needs, eligibility criteria, as well as a system for making donations on line. A coming activity will be the Hunger Walk in May. Hopefully Trinity will be able to have several walkers, adults and kids.

The 2015 year-end report shows a decrease in contributions from the Churches that have made pledges of support. There are currently 13 Churches providing monetary contributions throughout the year.

Peggy Graydon

Tenth Most Holy Place



The tenth holy place in the world is Naritasan Shinshoji Temple, a Shingon Buddhist temple located in central Narita, Chiba, Japan. Narita-san is translated literally as the “Narita Mountain” and Shinshō-ji as the “New victory temple.” Shingon Buddhism was established by Kōbō Daishi (Kūkai) at the beginning of the Heian period (9th century), and its teachings are known as Shingon Esoteric Buddhism or simply Shingon Buddhism. This form of Buddhism is also known in Japanese as mikkyō, meaning "secret teaching". Many

of the lessons are only available orally to students of the religion.

The temple was founded in the year 940 by Kanchō Daisōjō, a disciple of Kōbō Daishi, this temple is dedicated to Fudō myōō (“Unmovable Wisdom King”), often known as the fire god. What makes it all the more sacred and beautiful is the lush backdrop of Naritasan Park, which is beautiful to behold in its full bloom, during spring.

Narita is one of the entry points to the beautiful city of Tokyo making it accessible to more than **10 million** (mostly Japanese) people who visit this temple, many of whom drop by en route Tokyo. The Gion festival in July is one of the main attractions amongst all the festivities conducted in the Narita San Complex.

David Daniels

Youth Happenings

This past weekend was another successful Happening retreat and included one of our youth from Trinity. It was again a great time to connect with God and each other as we continue this faith journey together.

The next Diocesan event is Junior High Retreat April 1-3 at St. Phillip's, Joplin and is for youth in grades 5-8. The Southern Youth Network will be doing a 30-Hour Famine March 18-19 and a Day of Service April 30, both in Springfield.

Looking ahead to summer, Camp WEMO will be held at YMCA Camp Wakonda

again from June 12-17 and is open to youth currently in grades 5-12. This week long adventure is wonderful. Let Amanda know if you'd like to help as an adult too or wemoyouth.com for more information!

As always, see Amanda or wemoyouth.com for more information.

Amanda Perschall

Articles for the Newsletter

Articles for the Trinity Tidings Newsletter may be emailed to Bonnie Daniels, editor at bonnieraydaniels@centurylink.net . If you do not have email access, we will also accept paper submissions.

