

## **DEAN'S REPORT To the 230<sup>th</sup> Convention 2014**

As I prepared my thoughts for our Cathedral Annual Meeting today, seven words from today's gospel kept running through my mind, "that he might be revealed to Israel." Epiphany is in some sense a two part season:

- 1st part is about God revealing God's self and
- 2nd part is about what we do as recipients with this revelation.

Are we willing to be evangelists?

Not every evangelist needs to try to convince with profound theological arguments. We could be like Andrew. Andrew introduced persons to Jesus; for example he introduced Peter to Jesus - John 1:41. He introduced the lad with five loaves and two fish – John 6:8-9. He told his story about his encounter with Jesus, who touched his life.

Many times deciding to follow Jesus can lead to many questions. The same is true in John's gospel. Jesus asks 'What are you looking for?' As we serve Jesus here at Trinity Cathedral may I ask like Jesus, 'what are you looking for in your spiritual life?' I know the answer to that question is not always the same. No doubt it possibly changes from day to day.

I'm very pleased however that we have this marvelous opportunity to journey together. Together we've touched countless lives. Food pantry statistics, parochial report statistics does not do justice to the lives impacted by the ministry of our Diocese, Cathedral and you as members of our worshipping community. Each and every day with each contact, email, phone call, conversation, I realize how God is using us to help improve and uplift the lives of our community.

We thank God for generous friends, and members who make all this possible; persons such as Florine Hunt, Ruth and Howard Palmer. Persons who lived very private and quiet lives, but who through generous legacies have provided significantly for a church they loved very dearly. In fact if they were alive and heard their names called they would probably be a little miffed that I am calling their names. For them it was "To God be the glory."

As we lived through 2013 it was a very trying year for many of us. I cannot remember in my life time a year so filled with the passing of persons near and dear to us – Harrold Ashton, Arthur Bigger, Mary Louise Chattin, Beatrice Cook, Virginia Hopkins, Florine Hunt, Philip Monte, David Mulcahy, Martha Runyon, James Vassos, Jack Hale, Bonnie Kell, Jeanette Campbell, Charles Thompson, Joanna Graham, those who died in the Philippines disaster, and quickly in the beginning of 2014, Erica Johnson and Janet Fearon, and countless others too numerous to mention or unknown to us. 2013 was not all sad news, we had a very hectic year and we accomplished many wonderful things.

We gave thanks for a decade of wonderful ministry by George and Ruth Councill. George came to this Diocese when we were not in the best of health, and when he and Ruth said goodbye we were in a much better place as a church. We welcomed Chip and Susan Stokes who have brought great passion, experience and humility in their desire to build up our Diocese.

### **TRANSITION - TRANSFORMATION**

Transitioning is always a time of reconnecting and remembering, but I'm always mindful and grateful for all the parts that make us able to accomplish what God is calling us to do for the Kingdom. I thank

God for Diocesan staff, Cathedral staff, Cathedral members, friends of the Cathedral, our co-workers and collaborators. I'm always astounded by the amount of individuals and congregations always ready to partner with us to the glory of God. I hesitate to name churches or individuals for fear of forgetting someone.

Permit to tell the story of this 94 year old member of the Cathedral whose daughter called to inquire about her mother's pledge. She called because her mother wanted to make sure she had completed her pledge for 2013. Never mind she had fallen at home and fractured a several ribs. She was seemingly more concerned about her pledge to God. Stories like these leave me speechless as to people's love for God and his church; when God has touched our life I suppose one can't help but be committed to his love and service.

#### STEWARDSHIP

Our stewardship program continues to flourish. First and foremost thank you to everyone for your pledges for 2014. Thank you for all you gave in 2013. The economy is still somewhat shaky, but investments are seemingly doing better. Many people in our communities and churches are struggling so we can't help but be extremely grateful for your response to God's call on what he has blessed you with in your personal lives. I want to thank the new consecration stewardship committee for all their efforts. 2014 new consecration Sunday is October 26, 2014. Our guest leader will be the Rev. Dr. Pat Close, Rector of Grace, Haddonfield. We thank the Rev. Canon Dr. Don Muller, our 2013 guest leader.

#### FUNDRAISING

We have not always done a very good job with this area of our life as a Cathedral. We are most certainly grateful to Mike and Debbie Raab for their tremendous efforts. The Parish life commission and the African Festival committee have done a wonderful job at raising significant funds for various ministries of the Cathedral. Friends of the Cathedral and the Community Day Golf Outing committee have been outstanding and exceptional; raising cumulatively over \$400,000 for Cathedral ministry.

I thank Canon Chuck Perfater and his hardworking committee made up of several persons throughout the Diocese for their magnificent efforts. This year will mark the 10th anniversary of the Community Day Golf Outing on October 13, 2014, and we are working and hoping to make it special.

We are most pleased to welcome to the Cathedral Chapter Professor Gordon Graham of Princeton Theological Seminary. Gordon is hoping to breathe new life into an effort called Cathedral Sunday; his dear wife, Allison Graham is constructing a new website for the Cathedral. Gordon caught fire when George invited new Cathedral Chapter members to see their role not just as being elected to attend another meeting, but as active goodwill ambassadors for Cathedral ministry. How can we spread the good news of what God is doing at and through Trinity Cathedral "that he might be revealed"? Cathedral Sunday 2014 is June 1st. 2014 please stay tune for all the exciting happenings.

#### PROPERTY AND BUILDING CONCERNS

Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to Dr. Bernard McMullan for his significant contributions to this work. I also say thank you for his efforts as Co-Chair of Cathedral Arts Series Trinity, I sincerely believe that the enormity of the task he assumed took it's toll, and hence he needed to step aside to take care of himself.

The wardens, vestry, and I have looked at his recommendations in his resignation letter, and have taken significant steps in addressing what he lifted up as concerns.

Thanks to generous donations designated to Property, in spring of 2014 several areas of concern will be addressed - the parking lot and sidewalks, roofing and gutters and stained glass windows mainly in the Chapel. We also have a Diocesan grant which is restricted to assisting improving the lighting in the Cathedral nave.

#### ENRICHMENT AND ENLIGHTENMENT

Please be aware that terminologies are changed. Diocesan guidelines recommend the use of new titles for lay ministry. We no longer use lay reader or lay Eucharistic minister. The new titles are lectors, chalice bearers, worship leader and lay Eucharistic visitor. Lectors and chalice bearers are not required to be licensed but all persons exercising lay ministry must be trained. Our in resident trainer is Deacon Carol Gilbert.

We are constantly looking at ministry at our Cathedral and are presently in conversation as to the most effective use of the title commission and committee. We want all our organizations to be connected and effective in the exercise of ministry. As we seek to be responsible stewards.

We have changed the keys and alarm code to the Cathedral Property. I am asking anyone who has keys or codes prior to December 2013 should speak with the Dean or Wardens to make sure what you have is still functional.

We are most grateful to welcome new persons to our ministry, namely the Rev. Canon Dr. Marilyn Adams. I also thank God for our Deacons and clergy associates, they bring a great richness to what we do at the Cathedral.

I ask your prayers for Jon Carl Lewis and Ricardo Sheppard and the Parish Discernment committee as they journey together seeking to discover if these two young men have a call to priesthood.

Please remember we do all that we do "that he might be revealed," not only to Israel, but to the entire world.

In Christ,  
The Very Rev'd Rene R. John  
Dean, Trinity Cathedral