



Holy Trinity's Mission: Building an open community that connects people to God and their ministries.

Be Thankful

by **C. Patricia Leacock-Ballish**

(from Thoughtful Poems from the Heart-Volume 1 - November 2007)

We wake up everyday to see the white clouds, sunshine and breeze
And we do not even stop to thank God for the beautiful trees.
Our thoughts soon roam to other things but do we stop to offer thanks
For the many blessings God brings.

The many things we take for granted, like birds, bees and rain,
Imagine if there were none of these, imagine a life without grain.
It goes to show us what we miss whenever we do not stop to pray
And thank God in Heaven above for all of his wonderful care.



photo by Sherrill Bower



Sunday School Advent Event

by **Donna Anderson Rand, Sunday School Co-Superintendent**

The Sunday School students will be enjoying their annual kickoff of Advent activities with an Advent Event craft day on December 7, 2008. Craft making activities will be set up in the Parish Hall and will occur in place of the usual classes from 11:15-12:00. Projects will range from very simple to moderately involved and are suitable for kids of all ages--the young and the young-at-heart. All children and adults who wish to help or just have some fun--are welcome to participate.

Wednesday Schedule Changes

The 12 Noon Holy Eucharist is back to 10:15 AM on Wednesday mornings! Please come for some mid-week nourishment. Here is the new Wednesday morning schedule:

8:00 AM	Rectory Readers	Rectory
10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist	Church
11:00 AM	Bible Study	Rectory



HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

13106 Annapolis Road
Bowie, Maryland 20720-3829
Phone: 301-262-5353
Fax: 301-262-9609

Website: <http://holytrinitybowie.edow.org>

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM

The Reverend Leslie M. St. Louis, Rector

lstlouis@htrinity.org

Chaplain John Daniels, Youth Minister

jdaniels@htrinity.org

Michael Arrington - Music Director

marrington@htrinity.org

Michelle Upton - Secretary

mupton@htrinity.org

Fritz Miller - Bookkeeper (Tues, 10 AM to 2 PM)

fmiller@htrinity.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 AM – Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Children's Chapel in Parish Hall

10:45 AM – Fellowship & Education,
Sunday School, Youth Group,
Discussion Hour, and Adult Bible Study

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

10:15 AM – Holy Eucharist, Rite II

THE TRINITY TIDINGS

Published monthly except July
Deadline for Articles – 15th of Month

Email: tidings@htrinity.org

Co-Editors: Evelyn Kirby, Karen Sharp

Vestry

The Rev. Leslie M. St. Louis – Rector

through 2009: Gerry Perez – Senior Warden

through 2011: Craig Ryan – Junior Warden

through 2009: Annie Beckley Tom Lackey
Claud Taylor

through 2010: Rick Anderson Ames Perry

Evelyn Kirby

through 2012: Candace Carlisle Eric Maurer

Trish Butler

Ex officio

Michelle Upton – Secretary

John Horrocks – Treasurer

Susan Krueger – Chair, HTEDS Board

Diocesan Convention (term expires)

Delegates:

Diane Clark (2009) Kirt Kirtland (2010)

Alternate Delegates:

Mary Yuhas (2009) Jim Diggs (2010)

In Anticipation of Christ's Mass by The Reverend Leslie M. St. Louis

“Then came the word of the Lord unto Jeremiah, saying, Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?” (Jeremiah 32:26-27)

Sort of a funny way of saying things isn't it? The word of the Lord “came” to someone? I remember as a little girl hearing this phrase and conjuring up an image, in my very active imagination, of all these words running along a path to the people for whom they were intended. An especially funny image, I think, for sacred scripture. Imagine all those words running helter-skelter to reach each of us and then to move us to respond.

Well....that image is really not too very far off the mark although the translation of the word “came” is off the mark. In the Hebrew the word is “vayomer” which quite literally means to “happen” so in the text above one would more appropriately say: “Then the word of the Lord happened to Jeremiah...” The word “came” has no dynamism to it; it is a static word and, therefore, lends a static rendering to our understanding of the action of the Word of the Lord (even if we can imagine words marching around to choirs of angels). But “happened” is happening, will happen, has happened. Here we find movement, creation, power, and transformation. The word “happened” to Jeremiah and he was moved.

In Romans 10:17 we read, “so then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.” We might translate this into “happening language”: “then faith happens by hearing and hearing by the word of God.” It is through our participation in the happening of the Word of God that our faith is born. Our Christian lives are lives of faith; we live lives centered in the belief that God can and will do the impossible. To have living faith we must live in the “happening” of the Word of God in each of our lives. Our lives in faith are active; they begin with the action of God's words upon the world.

Here, at the beginning of December, we turn our attention to the “happening” of the Christ child. We anticipate with joy the birth into our lives of the Word made flesh. We wait breathlessly for God to do the impossible, to come and walk with us, Emmanuel. I invite you to a “happening” Advent, to experience the word of the Lord as it happens, is happening, will happen and has happened; to let those words happen to you and for you to happen with them, changed, renewed transformed.

**A Unique, Affordable Gift
for Christmas
by Karen Sharp**



Sherrill Bower's beautiful, limited edition print of Holy Trinity as affordable notecards is an excellent Christmas gift! This shrink-wrapped collection of 10 cards with envelopes sells for \$10.00, \$6.00 of which is tax deductible. Proceeds will benefit the Rectory Restoration/Preservation project. To order please contact [Bonnie Branham](mailto:Bonnie.Branham@holytrinitybowie.org), 301-503-3172, or [Karen Sharp](mailto:Karen.Sharp@holytrinitybowie.org) or 301-262-8425.



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**Children's Chapel
by Elizabeth Chamberlain**



Young children ages 3 through second grade are invited and encouraged to attend Children's Chapel on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Parish Hall. This service introduces the lessons and prayers for the week in age-appropriate crafts, songs and stories.

Children then join their parents in the church for the passing of the peace and Holy Eucharist.

Please call Elizabeth Chamberlain at 301-464-5897 to learn more about this service.

**From Holy Trinity's Treasurer
by John Horrocks, Treasurer**

The Finance Committee is beginning the 2009 budget process for Holy Trinity. As part of the process we will be sending a letter to various church organizations and committees asking for input on their area of interest. The letters will be distributed by December 1 and need to be returned by December 14. If you would like to provide input but haven't received a letter by December 1, please call me at 301-464-8620.

Pledge Update: Its been a hard financial year for everyone including Holy Trinity. At the end of October we are running over \$23,000 behind in giving and estimate that we will have a year end deficit in excess of \$30,000 despite running slightly under our budgeted expenses. So PLEASE do your part and keep your pledge up to date. Thank you.

**Holy Trinity Needs You!
by Tom Lackey, Stewardship Ministry**

Unless you have already submitted a financial pledge for 2009, please do so right away. January is the month that the annual budget is finalized and the Finance Committee needs the most accurate information that it can get as to what resources will be available for the year. This will prove to be one of the most important and challenging years of our church's history and the Finance Committee wants everyone to feel a part of the action. Pledge forms can be obtained on the table in the back of the church and can be placed in the offering plate or delivered to the Church Office. Also, you can use the link on the Church website to pledge online:
<http://holytrinitybowie.edow.org/pledge.html>. Thank you for your generous support in so many ways to the good work done at Holy Trinity.

<http://holytrinitybowie.edow.org/>

Stewardship Breakfast

Approximately 100 parishioners gathered on Sunday November 9, for our Annual Stewardship Breakfast. Thank you to everyone who prepared food, set up and took down.



“Bless this food . . .”



Good Food



Good Friends



Good Fellowship



AND...especially...
thanks to Tom Lackey who organized this feast.



Christmas Poinsettia Ordering Form

Every Christmas season Holy Trinity decorates the church at Christmas week with poinsettias paid with memorial donations from parishioners, brightening the atmosphere and adding to the joy of our celebrations of Christ's birth. A tribute is added to the Christmas service bulletins acknowledging the donor and recognizing the loved ones or reasons for each donation.

I (we) would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary -

Given by: _____

In thanksgiving for: _____

OR

In memory of: _____

OR

In honor of: _____

The cost of each plant is **\$20**. Please include your check **with this form** and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Janice Vettel in person. Make checks payable to *Holy Trinity Altar Guild* with *Christmas Poinsettia* in the Memo portion of your check. You may also pay in cash, in a properly labeled envelope ("*Christmas Poinsettia*"). **Payment is due no later than Sunday, December 14, 2008.**

** This year, thanks to webmaster Chip Harman, you may also submit your poinsettia dedication online at the Holy Trinity website, <http://holytrinitybowie.edow.org/>. Payments must still be placed in the offering plate, as instructed above.

If you have any questions, please contact Janice Vettel, Altar Guild, janicepv@hotmail.com or 301-805-8988.

THANK YOU!



**News from
the Day School**
by Laykin Zarro, Director,
Marketing & Communications

Dear Holy Trinity Church members and friends,

The chapel theme for the Day School in December is "Giving" and the halls exemplify this theme. Here are just a few of the activities which began before Thanksgiving and continued until the Christmas Break:

- The Preschool/Kindergarten gathers hats and mittens on the "giving" Christmas tree.
- The Lower School has collected hundreds of canned and non-perishable food items that go to the Bowie Pantry to help feed our local families.
- The Middle School collects gently used coats of all sizes to be distributed to those in need in our area communities.
- Many of our students of all ages have written holiday wishes to our service men and women serving in Iraq, filled gift boxes to overflowing with personal care items and special treats for the homeless.

As Luke 12:48 says, "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." All of us at Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School are grateful for the abundance in our lives. Through our collective efforts, students made the holiday season a blessed time for others in our community. Have a safe and wonderful Christmas.

With gratitude,
Marcy Cathey, Head of School

**Support
Holy Trinity Day School
Give to
the Annual Fund for Excellence
Today**

The Holy Trinity Annual Fund for Excellence provides classroom materials as well as the resources to enhance the technology, music, drama, and athletic programs that benefit students.

For more information, please visit the school's website at www.htrinity.org or contact Corlessia Daniel, Director of Development at Cdaniel@htrinity.org.

**Food Service Manager Licensing
Class**
by Tom Lackey

On Saturday, November 1, five (5) parishioners at Holy Trinity participated in an intensive 6-hour class to receive a certificate that they have the training to be licensed food service managers. Those in attendance were Carl Vettel, Barbara Arnold, Tom Lackey, Karen Sharp and Grace Sharp. Mr. Renfield Carter, a retired D.C. food inspector and frequent substitute teacher at the Day School, taught the class. Following the class time, the five students took a standardized, 80 question exam. Test results should be available in early December.

Through licensing, the Prince George's County Health Department assures that safe food handling requirements are met to protect the public's health at all times. This training will be important in connection with future meals prepared and served at Holy Trinity events.

The information provided was extremely interesting and Holy Trinity hopes to sponsor another such class in the future.

Holy Trinity's Vision

...to become a dynamic spiritual center that reflects our community in its diversity. Here people will be welcomed and accepted and will find growth and fulfillment in the vitality of the Spirit.

Parish Milestones

Baptism

Nathaniel Jesse Clowers, son of
Martha R. Tracy and Angela N. Clowers
November 2, 2008

"We receive you into the household of God."

Death

George Wesley Childs, grandfather of
Sean Fallon
November 9, 2008

"Give rest, O Christ, to your servants."

Holy Trinity Foster Child by Christen Wehrenberg

Through the Christian Children's Fund, Holy Trinity's Foster Child is Cristy Sencio, who lives on the island of Mindanao, Philippines. Cristy turned 18 on November 4 and is one year into a 3-year Computer Operation and Programming course. We will continue to support Cristy and her family until mid-2010, when she is scheduled to graduate and will have the means to support herself and contribute to her family's support. All made possible by her hard work and our generous financial support.

The Hunger Committee is the primary financial supporter of this ministry, providing \$35 per month—for which I am very grateful. Given the many important projects and needs that the Hunger Committee supports, **I'd like to encourage congregation members to contribute by donating \$25 for Cristy's Birthday gift or Christmas gift.** If you'd like to give, make your check payable to "Christian Children's Fund, Inc." and forward your gift to the Parish Secretary or to "Holy Trinity Foster Child Coordinator." These gifts will be used to support Cristy in 2009. Equally important is to send cards or letters, especially nice at Christmas. You can forward cards/letters to me to send or use the below address (Airmail is best/2-week delivery):

Cristy Sencio
135/335207/00642
Maluso
Christian Children's Fund
PO Box 13225 Ortigas Center
Emerald Avenue
1605 Pasig Metro Manila
Philippines

Thank you for your generosity and prayers—this ministry truly matters to Cristy and her family. Please feel free to contact me at cmwehrenberg@verizon.net or 301-262-5973 if you have any questions.

Coming Soon . . . Holy Trinity's Annual Chili Cook-Off!!



Get your best recipes out and start practicing!

Mark your calendars now for the first Saturday in February
(February 2).

Watch for more details in *The January Tidings*, on our website (<http://holyltrinitybowie.edow.org/>) and in Sunday bulletins.

If you missed it last year, you won't want to miss it this year!



the Cemetery adorned for Advent and Christmas!



Christmas Worship Services

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

5:00 PM Children's (Family) Service

10:00 PM Festival Holy Eucharist

Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December, 28 (one service only)

9:30 AM A Festival of Lessons and Carols