



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

The Epiphany

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

Matthew 2.1-2



Photo by Sherrill Bower

Rector Search Nearly Complete.

by Gerry Perez

The Search Committee presented to the Vestry three nominees to be considered for the Call of Rector to Holy Trinity. The Committee expressed that all three candidates were of exceptional caliber, with differing skills and experiences, and any one would be a satisfactory choice.

The Vestry spent most of the December meeting with the finalists, and joined the Search Committee in hosting a social event to meet each candidate and his/her family, to get to know them better. In addition, both Bishop John Chane and Marcy Cathey, Day School Head, have had conversations with each finalist and have provided input to the Vestry.

In early January, the Vestry will meet and discuss the candidates, and discern God's call for Holy Trinity and our next rector.

The following parishioners served on the Search Committee: Steve Esmacher (Chair), Candace Carlisle, Gilbert Taylor, Elizabeth Chamberlain, Yvonne Owens, Steve Cone, Tom Sykes, Chip Harman, Wade Brown, Sandy Short. Please join me in thanking them for their great service and sacrifice of time for Holy Trinity.

This is a great time in the life of Holy Trinity, and we pray for the Holy Spirit to be with us and guide us and our finalists as we come to this time of decision.



HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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bmcpherson@htrinity.org
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Michael Arrington - Music Director
Michelle Upton - Secretary
Fritz Miller - Bookkeeper (Tues, 10 AM to 2 PM)

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:30 AM – Holy Eucharist, Rite II
(w/Children's' Chapel 2nd-5th Sunday
- Parish Hall)
10:45 AM – Fellowship & Education,
Sunday School, Youth Group,
Discussion Hour, and Adult Bible Study

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

(September -May)
10:15 AM – Holy Eucharist, Rite II

THE TRINITY TIDINGS

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Vestry

Rev. Bruce McPherson – Interim Rector
through 2009: Gerry Perez – Senior Warden
through 2008: Craig Ryan – Junior Warden
Candace Carlisle
Eric Maurer
Trish Butler
through 2009: Annie Beckley
Tom Lackey
VACANT
through 2010: Rick Anderson
Evelyn Kirby
Ames Perry

Ex officio

Michelle Upton – Secretary
VACANT – Treasurer
Rev. Mariann Babnis - Assistant Rector
Katherine Mathis – Chair, HTEDS Board

Ministries' Clusters

Outreach
Christian Formation
Worship and Music
Parish Life
Parish Operations

Epiphany Light by Rev. Bruce McPherson, Interim Rector

One of my favorite contemporary writers, Cormac McCarthy has written a number of novels, most of which are set in the desert borderland of West Texas and Mexico. One recent novel called *No Country for Old Men* was made into a movie that will probably win some Academy Awards. I have read the book and seen the movie and both are terrific, but very depressing. This is a story in which evil seems to have the upper hand. Amidst the hostile landscape of the West Texas desert and the bleak outlook of the people who live there, the protagonist searches for truth, or perhaps he is searching for wisdom or enlightenment. I won't spoil the story for you, but suffice it to say, it is a dark story and it ends not with a bang, but a whimper.

What a different story is that of the Wise Men who travel very in their search for enlightenment. Against the darkness of the night, they see the light and they are prepared to follow that light no matter what the cost. And the cost is enormous. There is a wonderful poem by T. S. Eliot that talks about what the Magi gained and what they lost. It is called "The Journey of the Magi." Here are a few lines:

"All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death,
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods."



The light that had been kindled in the cradle on Christmas night was now shining high in the heavens above. Some saw it, went back to what they were doing and nothing was changed. But some saw it and saw in it the promise of a new and better way. It meant that the old way had to die, but the promise made it worth the risk. Whenever a new idea is born, the old has to pass away. Not to allow that to happen is to worship the last new idea. Not to allow that to happen is to give in to a hostile country. Enlightenment is to embrace the new – the newness of Christ and the tomorrow that God is forever creating.

That is the message of Epiphany and it is just as appropriate today as in those earlier days. At Holy Trinity, something new is about to be born. A new star will soon shine in the sky. Let us not be satisfied with the old dispensation, but embrace the new as Holy Trinity begins the next chapter in its story. And its story is not that of a hostile land, but of the new life given to us in Christ Jesus so that everyone can come to know the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, kindness and the rest. May God speed you on your journey!

Holy Trinity Needs You!!

by Tom Lackey, Stewardship Ministry

Unless you have submitted a financial pledge for 2008, please do so right away. Because the Finance Committee finalizes the annual budget in January, it needs the most accurate information to determine what resources will be available for the year.

2008 will prove to be one of the most important and challenging years of our Church's history and we want everyone to feel a part of the action.

Pledge forms are available on the table in the back of the Church. Please give your filled out pledge to one of the rectors or to the Church Office. Alternatively, you can use the link on the Church website to pledge on-line.

Thanks for your generous support in so many ways to the good work done at Holy Trinity.

The Cemetery Atop the Hill Adorned for Christmas and Advent

by Karen Sharp

Parishioner Sherrill Bower enlisted the help of Sally Gilbert, Della Whorton, Karen Sharp and Rev. Mariann Babnis to decorate Holy Trinity Cemetery graves for Advent and Christmas.

On a cold Saturday morning, they placed wreaths on the graves of adults and Teddy bears or dolls on the graves of children. All who visited the grounds of Holy Trinity during these liturgical seasons reaped the benefits of their ministry. The wreaths will be removed by Epiphany.

Sherrill commented, "We hope to cover all of the graves next Advent, 2008."

Thank you, Sherrill, for asking us to help share in this expression of your love for Holy Trinity.



Photo by Sherrill Bower

A Very Heartfelt Thank You from The Altar Guild

by Liz Biddle, Altar Guild Director

Happy New Year! I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the Altar Guild members for all their help and hard work with making the church a beautiful sight for Christmas.

I would also like to thank everyone that purchased a poinsettia which, along with the wreaths, made the church feel warm and festive during the Christmas season.

All of us on the Altar Guild want to wish everyone a very happy and healthy new year. We're all looking forward to what the future will bring us. Thank you again for your support.

Holy Trinity Day School Considers \$10.5 Million Dollar Expansion

by Harold Sandy, Member, Board of Governors

You have been hearing for some time now that the Holy Trinity Day School administration and Board have been working hard on strategic plans to meet building needs that adequately meet the educational needs of our present and future student populations.

The two greatest needs are for a gymnasium at the Daisey Lane campus and for more classroom and storage space for the students at our own education building. Additional classrooms will be added at the church campus as well as an elevator for the Parish Hall.

The congregation's needs have been fully considered with input from our Finance Committee and Vestry. On December 13, the Day School's Board of Governors approved the proposed building and financing plans for the \$10.5 million project. Final approval is now in the hands of the Vestry

The Ghosts In The Rectory by Miranda

Hello, you haven't met me yet, but my name is Miranda. I'm a ghost who's lived in the Rectory for over 100 years.

I know, I can hear you now, saying, "But there never was anyone named Miranda who lived in the Rectory. You can't be a ghost and you don't live there."

Well, it's true that *no human* named Miranda ever lived in the Rectory. But, well, this hard to explain, but I started life as a fruit fly on a bushel of peaches stored in the basement. Fruit flies as a rule don't live long, and they aren't considered intelligent beings, but ...well, that's a story for another time.

Anyway, I live here with 5 other ghosts. There's Constogal, (you do remember the bees that used to live in the attic, don't you? – Well, that's another story, too), and Frecoda, Rassputman, and Gremeux, and poor little Quinote.

Now, back to the story. We got to reminiscing the other night about all the good times in the Rectory. One night Constogal hid a measuring cup from the Rector's wife, and she thought one of the kids had taken it. We had a good laugh over what happened to that kid.

And then there's the bathtub. Rassputman had been working on a way to make it suddenly fall through the floor. After the last family moved out over ten years ago, the challenge hasn't been much fun, anymore. Oh, mind you, he isn't a mean ghost. He wouldn't have it fall with someone in it. But, a bathtub with no water isn't nearly as much fun as a filled one. So, you can see why we are considering moving out. It's just too boring and lonely around here.

Wednesday mornings are really the only time this place is lively. There's food, and laughter and talking about books, and then some silence and prayers and talk of spiritual matters. I mean *real* spiritual matters, not ghosts who live in the basement.

Frecoda, says there's talk of turning the Rectory into administrative offices and meetings rooms. She says nothing has been decided yet, but that the preliminary plans to expand it have been approved and sent to the architect to finalize. She also said the Vestry applied for a \$50,000 grant from Maryland Historical Trust for work on the outside only of the existing Rectory. (We ghosts laugh at that – the Historical Trust thinks 150 years is *old*. Well, some of my best friends are over 600 years old – but that's another story!).

If the congregation (that's you, dear reader), decides not to expand, you can still use the grant money (if it's awarded) to preserve the outside of the building. That's good. We know that a family will never live in this house again; that there will never be any more Christmas parties for the whole congregation, but it would be fun to have people coming and going and enjoying this historic space again. Besides we have lots of tricks to play on people, and they're just going to waste.

Well, they told me that space is limited so I'll close for now. Ghosts don't really know what "limited space" means, but maybe I'll write something another time and tell you more about our life in the Rectory basement.



*Help the
Hunger Committee
“heat up the night”
at a Chili Cook-off*

*Saturday, February 2
Parish Hall
6:00 pm-10:00 pm*

*Prizes for hottest chili, best chili, and
healthiest chili*

\$10.00 entry fee for your chili

*Cost: is \$10.00 a ticket (maximum \$25.00 per family
Ticket fee waived for chili chef*

*You supply the chili and we will supply chili fixins,
cornbread, salad, chips, dessert
BYOB*

Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School News
by Laykin Zarro, Marketing and Communications Director

The Christmas spirit was in full swing at the Day School in December.

The 5th and 6th graders put on their own Christmas play when they performed “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” Over 70 students were involved in this dramafest, either as actors or as tech crew. We thank Mrs. Firmani, Mrs. Bailey, and all the wonderful parent volunteers who contributed to the success of the play.

The Santa’s Secret Shop was bustling with young shoppers as the students enjoyed great excitement when they purchased secret holiday gifts for their families and friends. As part of the holiday festivities, the school held the traditional Santa’s Breakfast where the Holy Trinity School community enjoyed food and games. Under the direction of Mrs. Patty Lewis, over 150 Lower School students kept everyone entertained with holiday songs.

The much anticipated Winter Band Concert was an outstanding success. The audience was entertained by the Jazz, Cadet, Concert, Symphonic, and Wind Ensembles. The young musicians played a variety of pieces including *A Jazz Merry Christmas*, *On the Wings of Eagles*, *A Christmas Sampler*, *Simple Gifts*, and Three *Quiet Carols*. We thank our wonderful Band Directors, Brian Hollar and Sara DelVillano-Tabin.



Support

Holy Trinity Day School

100%

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.httrinity.org and click on *support ht*.

Our campaign ends April 30th, so please consider your gift today.

Holy Trinity Foster Child
by Christen Wehrenberg

Please join me in warmly congratulating Audrey and Nelson Denison as they *retire* from serving 30+ years as Holy Trinity's Foster Child Coordinators. As Karen Sharp asked last month, how can anyone adequately thank them for their steadfast service? As I assume the responsibilities that they've so selflessly performed, I look forward to the continued and necessary financial support from the ECW, Hunger Committee, and members of the congregation. In fact, the Hunger Committee has already graciously funded half of our 2008 support for Christy—Thank you so much.

Through the Christian Children's Fund, our 6th Foster Child is Cristy Sencio, who lives on the island of Mindanao, Philippines. Christy turned 17 on November 4 and is newly enrolled in a 3-year Computer Operation and Programming course. Holy Trinity will continue to support her until mid-2010, when she is scheduled to graduate and will have the means to support herself and contribute to her family's support.

Members of the congregation who would like to join in Cristy's support may do so by making checks payable to "Christian Children's Fund, Inc." Then forward their gift to the Parish Secretary or to Holy Trinity Foster Child Coordinator. Equally important is sending cards or letters of encouragement as she begins her studies. 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

As Audrey and Nelson did, I'll post for your viewing any letters or pictures that Cristy sends us. Thanks for your generosity and prayers—this ministry makes a real difference in the life of the child we support and her family.