



**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*



"The Three Wise Men" by Sherrill Bower

### Movie Night – Something New For Sunday Discussion by Kimberly Evans

Leslie Garner is introducing movies to our Sunday Discussions. What a great idea! The plan is to get together for a potluck dinner and the movie on Saturday night, then discuss the movie the following morning at Sunday Discussion. “Little Miss Sunshine” will debut on Saturday, January 10, with Leslie leading the discussion on Sunday morning. Come and share fellowship at a potluck, enjoy a good movie, and then come Sunday and take a deeper look at the movie’s themes and at ourselves.

Also new for Sunday Discussion, Eric Maurer is going to lead us in an exploration of the “Church of Scientology” on January 25. This will be an interesting look at some strange beliefs.

Looking forward to seeing you all in January.

### SUNDAY DISCUSSION CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2009

January 10 (Saturday)	<b>“Little Miss Sunshine” Viewing &amp; Potluck Dinner</b>
January 11	<b>“Little Miss Sunshine” Discussion – L.Garner</b>
January 18	[MLK Birthday weekend] <b>Sandwich Making</b>
January 25	<b>Scientology Discussion – E.Maurer</b>



## HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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### SUNDAY WORSHIP

**8:00 AM** – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

**9:30 AM** – Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Children's Chapel in the 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

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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 2011: 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 Yuhás (2009)

Jim Diggs (2010)

## The Proclamation of the Epiphany by The Rev. Leslie M. St. Louis

*Nations shall come to your light  
And kings to the brightness of your dawn  
They shall bring gold and frankincense  
And shall proclaim the praise of the Lord*

This is the proclamation of the Epiphany! That day when the magi came to see the baby Jesus, to bring their gifts and tributes and to warn the Holy family of the dangers lurking, urging them to flee into Egypt.

As you read this newsletter, the days of Christmas will have just passed, perhaps the New Year has not yet been rung in, but in the waning days of Christmas carols and twinkling lights we turn our attention to the manifestation of God among us, Jesus the child. Epiphany has long been a tradition in my family, a time when we stop to look one last time at the manger. In our household, the Magi trek around the house day by day on their long journey to see the babe. One day Alice may move them from the mantle to the dinette table, the next I may put them in the wine cabinet (they sometimes stay there a while), and then they may move over to a window sill. It's a great imaginative game! We run to see who can move them first and who can put them in the most creative place, these Magi dressed in colorful robes, with their majestic camels plodding alongside.

Sometimes one of us forgets where we have placed them (although I know God sees them), then gleefully we find them and off they go again. Until that day when we gently place them in the crèche to reverently, lovingly bow before the babe, until that day when we reverently lovingly bow before the babe.

Although, it is a game, you see, it is also a way in which to conceive of the sovereignty of God, to be guided by our imaginations into this most incredible story the world has ever known. The twelfth day of Christmas – the Epiphany – is about God making this sovereignty known, not just to Israel but to all creation. To understand this story, to enter into this story, we need imagination: the eyes not of rationalism but of revelation. The Christmas season, you see, begins with incarnation and ends with manifestation. The Magi followed a star, but not a star guided by gravity and gases, rather one guided by God's desire to convey a message to God's people. The people have seen a great light, we have seen a great light. Let your imagination so burn with this light that this majestic story embroiders its way into your soul woven through with brilliant colors and shots of silver and gold.

Wishing you the blessings of a New Year and the wonder and awe of The Epiphany!

## Heat Up The Night

by Susan Croft, Hunger Committee

By attending the Hunger Committee's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chili Cook-off on Saturday, February 7 in the Parish Hall. The chili categories will be Best Overall, Hottest, and Healthiest, so begin now to get your best recipe. Of course, you don't have to bring pot of chili, you can just come to eat and enjoy great fellowship. All proceeds will be used in our community to help the hungry.

The cost will be \$10.00 per person; however, children in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and under will be free. In addition to chili there will be cornbread, hot dogs, chips, and desserts. Everyone is asked to bring their own beverages).



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

## Chick-fil-A Night

by Susan Croft, Hunger Committee

The need to help the hungry is great so the Hunger Committee is sponsoring a fund raiser at the Bowie Chick-fil-A on Wednesday, January 21.

You will need a coupon but can eat in the restaurant or use the drive-thru. Coupons will be available from Hunger Committee members after church services.

Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to join us as we work to help the hungry.



## Why Is The Third Advent Candle Pink?

by Chip Harman



photo by Karen Sharp

The early Church instituted the season of Advent as a time for reflection and repentance. The tradition of lighting Lenten candles was passed to a newer tradition of Christmas celebrations, when Advent began to mark the start of the church calendar. Taking the Lenten tradition of a single, alternately colored candle to grant a feast day in the middle of the Lenten fasting, the practice of lighting the pink candle reminds us of ties to the Lenten season and the time of spiritual reflection it provides us. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, followed by the fourth Sunday's candle and then the lighting of the Christ candle on Christmas Day. Even as the Feast of the Epiphany approaches we will continue to light all the candles, giving us the anticipation of Christ's arrival and then the celebration of his presence on earth.

To read more about it:

<http://infinitygoods.wordpress.com/2007/11/26/three-purple-candles-a-pink-one-and-a-wreath/>

[http://www.hcna.us/columns/pink\\_advent\\_candle.html](http://www.hcna.us/columns/pink_advent_candle.html)

<http://www.cresourcei.org/cyadvent.html>

<http://christianity.about.com/od/christmas/qt/adventcolors.htm>

<http://christianity.about.com/od/christmas/qt/adventwreath.htm>



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

Holy Trinity students ended 2008 with their usual fun traditions.

The children at the preschool/kindergarten division enjoyed a couple of Swedish and Dutch traditions. Sankta Lucia stopped by with delicious gingersnaps. The students were fascinated by her beautiful white gown and the candle-lit tiara on her head. The children also left their shoes outside the classrooms to see if St. Nicholas would surprise them with a visit and he did! The children found that St. Nicholas left lots of special treats in the shoes.

The students had the opportunity to experience several theatre productions during the holiday season. The Explorers saw "Mooseltoe," the second graders enjoyed "Babes in Toyland," and the 5/6<sup>th</sup> graders had fun with "Peter Pan." Undoubtedly, the best drama production around town was our very own "101 Dalmatians" staged by the 5/6<sup>th</sup> graders, under the wonderful guidance of Mrs. Firmani and her helpers. There were Dalmatians, Chihuahuas, poodles, and young preschool puppies! It was the first musical performance attempted by these young actors and they entertained all with their outstanding talent.

At the close of the holiday, Holy Trinity students gave generously to the needy. In the preschool/kindergarten division, the lovely Christmas tree was overwhelmed with gifts of mittens, gloves and hats, and books that were donated to Children's Hospital. At the Lower School, students collected new and gently used children's and young adult books for the Holy Trinity Annual Book Drive to benefit Children's National Medical Center. These students also contributed food items to the Bowie Food Bank. Chaplain John delivered the items to the food bank. At the Middle School, the students were involved in their annual community service project to help those children who are less fortunate during the holiday season. The students bought gifts for less fortunate children in the area. The students were actively involved in the selection of the gifts and wrapped the presents with great care.

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**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](http://www.htrinity.org) or contact  
Corlessia Daniel, Director of Development  
at [Cdaniel@htrinity.org](mailto:Cdaniel@htrinity.org).

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## **Rectory Renovation Update**

**by Evelyn Kirby, Vestryperson and Renovation Committee Member**



photo by Sherrill Bower

Over the last eighteen months, the Vestry-appointed Rectory Renovation Committee has made a study of the needs of the parish for meeting and office space. In view of the fact that the Rectory is badly in need of repair, the conclusion was that the renovation, restoration and addition to the Rectory would provide adequate meeting and office space as well as preserving this beautiful historic building.

During the study process, preliminary drawings were presented to the congregation and people offered their suggestions. After the suggestions were incorporated into the drawings, they were then presented at the annual meeting, and enthusiastically received.

Next a committee appointed by the Vestry interviewed several fundraising consultants, and subsequently chose Anita Colley, Stewardship Strategist with Generis. On December 11 she met with a steering committee, comprised of the Vestry and others, to will help Holy Trinity conduct a study to determine if it is feasible to raise funds for the Rectory Renovation Project.

The scope of the project will be unveiled on Sunday January 4. On January 11, the feasibility study will be launched through on-line and paper surveys to get parishioner's input. Also, Anita will conduct some small group discussions so people will have an opportunity to talk about the potential project.

Please be assured, (and this is important) no decision has been made to proceed with the renovation at this time. After the exploratory process is completed, the Vestry will be able to determine the next move. The Vestry (whose names appear on the second page of this newsletter) invites your comments, concerns, and questions. Please let us hear from you.

## Rectory Readers by Mary Yuhas



On January 7, the Rectory Readers will begin their fourth book of the program year. It is *A Path Out of the Desert: A Grand Strategy for America in the Middle East* by Kenneth Pollack. A member reviewed it as “giving incredible knowledge and understanding of sixteen Islamic countries, what each has gone through, what each of their problems are, and how we might help, plus much more...” Who wouldn’t be interested in knowing about that!?! If that includes you, and you’d like to join us for what promises to be some most enlightening discussions, call Bob at 410-721-9289 to order a book for you. Or, even if you’d just like to read it on your own, call Bob. We meet on Wednesdays, in the Rectory, from 8 to 10 AM.

We are currently completing *Just War, Lasting Peace: What Christian Traditions Can Teach Us*. It is a compilation of thoughts and ideas presented at a November 2003 forum at Georgetown University, sponsored by the U.S. Jesuit Conference and the Woodstock Theological Center. Lest you think it only contains Catholic traditions, not so. Other interreligious dimensions are explored as well as an interesting chapter on “effective ways to fight terrorism while retaining our values” plus some thought-provoking questions for discussion as well as private contemplation. Here are a few:

1. “How do you define war? Is it always between countries? Where do civil wars and rebellions fit in?
2. Is it legitimate for individuals to fight back if they are attacked? Can a country fight back if it is attacked? What role do you think national self-interest should play in discussing the ethics of war? Put another way: are we Americans first or Christians first?
3. How would you yourself define a peace church? What churches fit your definition? Would you call your church a peace church?
4. In what ways can you contribute to the promotion of peace and the avoidance of war? “

I don’t know about you, but these questions do tend to stretch my mind!

Just a few comments about our prior book by Jon Meachum, *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation...* We were introduced to the term “public religion” that was new for us. The Founding Fathers had every opportunity to use Christian imagery and language in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution but they did not, seeing the wisdom of distinguishing between private and public religion, and remembering the religious warfare that had engulfed and destroyed whole previous governments. The Founders did speak of God in a way that was unifying, not divisive, choosing terms such as “Creator”, “Nature’s God” and “Almighty Being”. Their language allowed that in homes and in churches anyone could believe and practice what they wished but in the public business of the nation the path they chose was the above-mentioned terms. They have served our nation admirably for more than three centuries; we are now the oldest democracy in the world. During this approaching inauguration you can remember that when we hear “God bless America” each American is free to define God in whatever way he or she chooses. That freedom allows us to be both reverent and tolerant – two virtues of relevance to all, “for the Founders public religion is consummately democratic.” We did learn a lot from this book but that’s what we do from every book that we read!



photo by Chip Harman

Harold Sandy, Ellen Glover and Gerry Perez, along with Dick Blass, Don and Kimberly Evans, Chip and Pam Harman, Curt Reiber, Steve Tompkins, Karen Sharp and Kirt Kirtland, braved the cold on Saturday, November 22 to rake leaves at Holy Trinity.

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

Unless you have submitted a financial pledge for 2009, 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.

2009 will prove to be one of the most financially challenging years for Holy Trinity in a long time; 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.

### **Thank You to and from The Altar Guild**

Happy New Year! Thank you to the Altar Guild members for all their help and hard work with making the church a beautiful sight for Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who purchased a poinsettia which, along with the wreaths, made the church feel warm and festive during the Christmas season.

### **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.