



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

God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.'

Genesis 9:12-16



photo by Karen Sharp

Altar Guild News



Barbara Arnold prepares the altar.



Ruth Simons at the aumbry.

The Altar Guild is busy preparing for the coming Holy Week services and invites you to come and help celebrate the Easter season! If you'd like to order lilies at \$20, please contact either Janice Vettel (301-805-8988 or janicepv@hotmail.com) or Pam Harman (301-464-5244 or harmanp@comcast.net).

After many years of faithful service, Liz Biddle has retired as Director of the Altar Guild; we wish her the best and are sure her management skills will be put to good use as her family's business expands. Sally Gilbert and Marcia Edelschein have also retired and will be sorely missed (Marcia gave 40 years of service!!!) With members leaving, we are looking for new members. If you could spare a few hours several times a year, please consider joining. Pam Harman is the new Director and Janice Vettel and Ruth Simons are managing the flowers. Please contact any member to talk about what is involved in being a member of the Altar Guild and how easy it is to serve.



HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Reverend Bruce McPherson, Interim Rector
bmcpherson@htrinity.org

Reverend Mariann Babnis, Assistant Rector
mbabnis@htrinity.org; (301) 809-1015

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

Waiting

by the Rev. Mariann Babnis, Assistant Rector

It will be said on that day, “Lo, this is our God; we have *waited* for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have *waited*; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” (Isaiah 25:9)

Yes, I am waiting. Waiting for a lot to happen. Waiting for Holy Week. Waiting for Easter Vigil. Waiting for Easter, for the joy of the event. Waiting for a new rector. That’s a lot of waiting to be done.

Dictionary.com describes ‘waiting’ as: “to remain inactive or in a state of repose, to remain neglected for a time, or *to look forward eagerly*” (emphasis added). I like that they consider ‘looking forward eagerly’ to be a condition of waiting. For that’s also what I’m doing.

I started my Lent in a very penitential mood. My readings speak to me about the holiness of this life. I am waiting for our Lord, as I’m sure you are, to make another appearance. The lectionary in Lent leads us that way. We are forever waiting for Christ to come down again as a new baby, baptized by John in the river Jordan and to be sent out to do all the teaching, preaching, healing he could do. Then we wait as Jesus comes before the Roman authorities and anguishes before the cross.

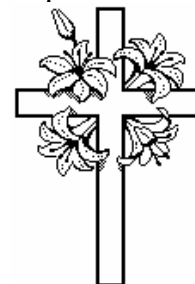
But you need not wait any longer. If you would like to be a part of the Easter celebration, come this Maundy Thursday and see what the three Holy Days are all about. We’ll feast on a Seder dinner in the Parish Hall at 6:00 and head over to the church at 7:30. There we will spread another table and hold a Holy Eucharist, as well as wash people’s feet. Then we’ll strip the altar of all of its vestments and leave in silence. On Good Friday we’ll enter in silence at 12:00 and 7:30 to bless the Lord. We’ll hear again the story that took Jesus from the garden in which he prayed to the cross.

On Saturday, at 8 PM, we’ll start outside for the Easter Vigil and light the Paschal candle (willing no rain). Then we’ll process inside and begin the service, which will include several baptisms.

On Sunday morning, we’ll celebrate Easter at 8:00 AM (with music!) and 10:00 AM. It will be a day to remember!

I’m also waiting for someone else to come – the Rev. Leslie St. Louis. She brings with her the experience of working at another church and also the experience of working outside the church in a number of areas. I hope you will join with me in making her initial foray into our church a marvelous one.

Waiting. It’s what we do on a regular basis. It’s what we do in times of stress and anxiety, and in times of solitude. May this season of waiting be a peaceful one for all of you.





Bonnie Branham; Rose Longmire, out-going ECW President; and Maureen Bunyan, guest speaker

**Rose Longmire and Joan Trisko
Complete Terms of Office
on the Executive Board,
ECW, Diocese of Washington
by Rose Longmire**

On Saturday, February 9th, 2008 the 125th Episcopal Church Women (ECW) in the Diocese of Washington (DOW) Annual meeting was hosted at All Saint’s Episcopal Church in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Over 110 people representing 20 churches shared a morning and afternoon of spiritual enrichment and fellowship.

The Rt. Rev. John B. Chane celebrated the Eucharist and spoke during lunch about the new beginnings in the Diocese such as The Bishop T. Walker School for Boys opening in the Fall of 2008 and the important role ECW plays in the life of the Diocese. Our keynote speaker, Maureen Bunyan, ABC News Anchor, shared her thoughts growing up as an Episcopalian and encouraged, challenged and empowered us to continue our good work in the Church and our communities.

Rose Longmire and Joan Trisko, long time members of Holy Trinity, completed their terms on the Executive Board for the ECWDOW. Elected as President and Region 5 co-Representative when the Annual Meeting was held at Holy Trinity, they appreciated having had the opportunity to serve at the Diocesan level for the past three years.



**Farewell Brunch
to Celebrate
Rev. Bruce McPherson’s Ministry
Among Us
by Gerry Perez**

Please plan to say, “Thank you and best wishes” to Rev. Bruce McPherson at a brunch after the 9:30 service on Sunday, March 2.

On that date, Bruce will have completed 18 months as Interim Rector at Holy Trinity. But he will be back to celebrate Holy Week and Easter with us.

We are blessed to have had Bruce with us during this time. He has shepherded us through change, re-tooled the church office, and expanded our outreach to our Bowie area neighbors in search of a new church home.



**Holy Week
Services
at Holy Trinity**

March 20, MAUNDY THURSDAY,
7:30 PM

March 21, GOOD FRIDAY,
12:00 NOON & 7:30 PM

March 22, EASTER VIGIL, Saturday,
8:00 PM

March 23, EASTER SUNDAY,
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

Letters Received from Our Foster Child Cristy by Chris Wehrenberg

I was excited to get and open two letters from Cristy this past month. The full letters are posted on the parish bulletin board outside the church office. Both are thank you letters: one for our November Birthday gift (\$25) and one for our Christmas gift (\$25)--the work of Audrey and Nelson Denison.

An excerpt of what Cristy wrote, "*I was really amazed and surprised by the gift...and how thankful it was...to receive this amount. You are very generous to me, ... and for sure God will pay all your kindness you have showed to me. God will really appreciate it.*" She's very sweet and our gifts to her really help her and her entire family.

Members of the congregation may help support Cristy with checks payable to "Christian Children's Fund, Inc." Forward the gift to the Parish Secretary or the Foster Child Coordinator's mail box in the church office. Cards or letters of encouragement for her studies would also be appreciated. If you'd like, forward cards/letters to me (office mailbox) to be sent for you 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

Easter Greetings from the Day School Head by Marcy E. Cathey

I bring you Eastertide greetings from the Day School! The days since Christmas have been busy ones for us and all three divisions have been in the thick of learning during these winter months.

The Preschool/Kindergarten celebrated "100 days" in early February. As you know, developing math skills is a key component of the Holy Trinity program, and learning to count to 100 is something that our students begin in the Discovery program.

Each class commemorates the day differently, but my personal favorite is the graph of 100 items. The graph may be made up of 100 stickers, 100 Cheerios, or the sweet treat

option, or 100 marshmallows. The graphs decorate our halls, along with other art projects that our wonderful students create on a daily basis.

The Lower School first graders celebrated their "100 days" with \$100 bills. The students replaced Benjamin Franklin's face with their own, and each first grader wrote a sentence about what he/she would do with \$100. It was inspiring to see that so many would use the money to buy food and clothing for the needy. Earlier this year during Sacred Studies, the students made a prayer tree that was composed of leaves containing their prayer requests. Many of the prayers included an end to sadness, hunger, and aid for the less fortunate.

The Middle School's focus has been on mastering increasingly difficult material during the day and extra-curricular activities after school. Thanks to the generosity of parents, grandparents, friends, and church members, the Annual Fund for Excellence has enabled the expansion of our athletic program to include development teams for the 5/6th grades, as well as provide even more competitive opportunities for our 7/8th graders. Last year, the basketball program fielded five teams. This year we are proud to have ten teams. Our 7/8th grade Boys A team has competed in four tournaments this year and won the Championship titles in the Holy Trinity "Nothing but Net" tournament, McNamara Christmas tournament, and the Annapolis Area Christian School tournament. Our 7/8th grade Girls team took the championship trophy at the Annapolis Area Christian School tournament. Our 5/6th grade teams will have the opportunity to play in the Greater Metropolitan Christian Athletic Conference tournament. The Annual Fund also enabled us to expand our after-school academic enrichment program. Julie Peyton, our 7/8th grade math teacher, started a Math Counts club for students who are interested math and wish to explore challenging math topics. A team of six competed at the University of Maryland in a regional competition and represented HT well.

So, these are just few glimpses of life at the day school. I will have more details for you when I come for the education hour on April 6, 2008. May you have a blessed Easter.

Annual Meeting Set for Sunday, April 27, 2008

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 27, after the 9:30 service. This will allow Rev. Leslie St. Louis to participate and have this opportunity to learn about the ministries of Holy Trinity. There will be elections for Junior Warden and three positions on the Vestry, as well as one Delegate to the Diocesan Convention.

The Process to Call Rev. Leslie St. Louis Recounted by Gerry Perez

Now that the search process is over, and a call to Rev. Leslie St. Louis has been made, I thought it would be good to share some of the activities that the Vestry went through over the past two months.

After the Search Committee made its report at the beginning of December, the Vestry conducted in-person interviews with each of the three candidates, followed by a social activity, including the family of the candidates and members of the Search Committee. That meant scheduling visits for the three candidates, (candidates were from Maryland, West Virginia and New York), and the 24 or so members of the Vestry and Search Committee.

But by December 28, we had met with everyone, and almost every Vestry person made it, rearranging family plans, taking off work, or delaying trips. We spend from five to ten hours with each person, adding up time for dinners, tours of the church, school, and the area, interviews, and social time. And I think we really got to know them.

In January, the Vestry reviewed the Search Committee's notes from their visits, interview observations, and input from the social activities, as well as our interview notes, and the candidates' profiles. We met, and prayed, and tried to match what we had learned to the person called out in the Parish Profile.

Above all, we wanted to be faithful to the purpose of calling the best priest, and kept all other concerns aside. We discussed our reactions to each person, and then we went through a ranking/scoring process, followed by another discussion period. And finally we checked ourselves by asking if other concerns would change our evaluation. It was an open and prayerful process. The result was a vote of nine in favor, and one abstention, to call Rev. St. Louis.

We made the call, and then I spent the rest of the month working on the letter of agreement with the Rector. With the issues and cost of housing, this turned out to take more time than we had planned.

When I first read about the search process, two years ago, I couldn't understand why it was so long and so involved. I think I understand a bit now. I think it takes some time for us as a congregation to re-strengthen the bonds between us so that we can go through this transformation process. It takes time to open up to new possibilities. I don't think we could undertake the call to a new Rector without going through this forging together.

Throughout the process, God was working in our midst, and continues to guide us. We still have some work to do, but I think we can do it together, and Holy Trinity will be better because of our resolve.

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.

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

Year-Round Stewardship by Tom Lackey, Stewardship Ministry

Our annual 2008 financial pledge drive for Holy Trinity reflected some economic realities faced by our country and Bowie. The economy is slowing down and prices are going up, especially energy costs. Annual pledging to Holy Trinity for 2008 is presently down about 8% from 2007 pledge amounts.

People who were able to increase their pledges from the previous year did so at a lower rate than in 2007 (1.6% increase vs. 4.9% increase for 2007). Of the persons who reduced their pledges for 2008, a number of them told me privately that it was because of economic conditions. It was encouraging to me that we had 14 "new" pledgers for 2008.

All of this brings me to the point that I want to make. 2008 will be a year in which we will all need to be even more conscientious stewards of God's gifts. If possible, try to increase your pledge giving during the year as you are able. Also, take the time to welcome new faces at Holy Trinity when you see them. Our future at Holy Trinity will be a bright one with your continued help and with the new help of others.

Crayon Ministry



Many people are unaware of the small, one-person ministry that can be called "The Crayon Ministry." It is the box of crayons and seasonal selection of coloring sheets that are kept under the small table at the back of the church. Children can pick them up on their way into church on Sunday morning to keep them occupied, happy, and quiet during services. It was started several years ago by Catherine Hamel, continued by Janice Vettel and is currently taken care of weekly by Denice Swisher. Many thanks to Catherine, Denice, and Janice, for this "small ministry."

Eagle Court of Honor for Mr. Spencer Cloutier Conducted at Holy Trinity by Curt Reiber, Building and Grounds

On April 1, 2007, Spencer Cloutier successfully completed his Eagle Scout project for Holy Trinity Episcopal Church when he cleaned and restored a seventy-five foot stone drain four feet wide on the northwest side of the Church property.

Spencer planned the project, scheduled the work teams, supervised and worked on all facets of the project including: clearing the debris, brush and plant growth, removing the riprap stone in the drain path, removing a one foot deep layer of silt from on top of the filter cloth in the bottom of the drain path, cleaning four gabion baskets spaced every fifteen feet in the drain path, and replacing the riprap stone as originally built.

Approximately 141 man-hours were expended on the project. The estimated savings for the Church was \$1,400. The project was completed with two days of intense work and with good support from Troop 1688 and Troop 403.

We commend Spencer Cloutier for his outstanding work. On behalf of the Holy Trinity congregation, we wish Spencer continued success and a warm thank you for a job well done.

We are very proud that Troop 1688 and Troop 403 assisted in the accomplishment of this project.

Day School Head Marcy Cathey to Speak to the Congregation Sunday April 6, at 10:45 AM by Harold Sandy

Please mark your calendars now and plan to be in the Parish Hall on April 6 for a Powerpoint presentation on building expansion plans. Mrs. Cathey will also speak on developments in curriculum, the religious program, and extracurricular activities in our Day School.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to bring yourself up to speed on the School's building program: a sorely needed gymnasium at the Daisey Lane campus and six additional classrooms to the education building on the Church grounds.

Let's fill the Parish Hall!



Chapel Forge Early Childhood Center

12711 Milan Way
Bowie, MD 20715
301-805-2740



Elyse Hurley, Principal

December 7, 2007

Chapel Forge Special Center would like to express our gratitude to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church for your donation to our Thanksgiving Food Drive. With your gracious generosity, needy Chapel Forge students and their families were able to enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving feast.

We at Chapel Forge are blessed to teach in a community that gives willingly to others.

/s/ Elyse Hurley
Principal

/s/ Julie Jones
Family Involvement Committee

Prince George's County Public Schools

Pancake Supper Provides Money for Youth Mission Trip

by John Daniels, Youth Minister



Claude Taylor, Russell Bowen, and Zachary Brasel serving pancakes



Youth Group Leaders Trish Butler and Ken Wenzel flipping pancakes

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper raised nearly \$300.00 that will be used to offset the cost of the Youth Group's upcoming Mission Trip. Thanks to everyone who participated. Also, beginning in March, Holy Trinity Church will host monthly youth game nights and fun social events. Stay tuned and check the Sunday Bulletins for more information.

PRISCM Update

by Gerry Perez

Holy Trinity has been a member of the Partnership for Renewal In Southern and Central Maryland (PRISCM) since 2005. In January PRISCM set out its activities agenda for the year. They began the year with a "get-out-the-vote-campaign," conducted in January. Members of PRISCM and members of Casa de Maryland canvassed 500 homes, passing out registration materials and polling materials and posting "get-out-the-vote" signs. This was done in parts of Capital Heights and Landover with particularly low voter turnout.

PRISCM is currently conducting an In-Reach campaign within each member church during Lent (February and March). It is designed to have two outcomes; build teams within a congregation that are willing to work on political issues, and identify the top two public issues they would want to address.

Contact Gerry Perez if you would like to participate in the interviews, or provide input.

PRISCM is gearing up for an April 19, Issue Summit where members will set an agenda for activity in the public arena. PRISCM is gearing up for a banquet at the end of June and a major political action in the Fall.