



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

Last year, Tom and Kathy Andrews sent 100 tulip bulbs from Amsterdam in appreciation for the European trip Holy Trinity gave them upon Father Tom's retirement. The bulbs came in ten glorious colors and are popping up beautifully. Pictured are those in Harold's Garden, directly across from the main office door. Many more can be found in the flagpole garden opposite the hemlocks behind the Rectory. How thoughtful of Tom and Kathy, and how beautifully Harold Sandy, Dick Blass and Don Evans maintain the grounds at Holy Trinity.



photo by Karen Sharp



photo by Evelyn Kirby

Welcome Rev. Leslie St. Louis

The congregation of Holy Trinity Church welcomed Rev. Leslie St. Louis on Sunday, April 13, as its twentieth rector.

Pictured (L-R) Steve Esmacher, Chair of the Search Committee; Rev. Marianne Babnis, Assistant Rector; Rev. Leslie St. Louis, and Gerry Perez, Senior Warden.



HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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lstlouis@htrinity.org

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mbabnis@htrinity.org; (301) 809-1015

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fmiller@htrinity.org

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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Production/Distribution:

Della Whorton

Vestry

Rev. Leslie M. St. Louis – 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

Diocesan Convention (term expires)

Delegates:

Evelyn Kirby (2008) Diane Clark (2009)

Alternates:

Craig Ryan (2008) Mary Yuhas (2009)

Fire, Fear and Ministry by The Rev. Leslie M. St. Louis, Rector

Many Episcopal priests come to their vocation in mid life -- a midlife crisis you might say, a "crisis" that pushes them to leave all that they have known and done before and come to a new land, to a place that God leads them to "pitch their tents" and do the work the Lord lays before them. As such, these midlife priests come with an entire history, what we refer to -- sort of jokingly -- as our "former life." I am a mid-lifer and sometimes that former life floods me with lessons that made no sense then but now they color everything, bringing into focus that which in the past may not even have been seen. Such is the case with fire.

In May of 2000, Los Alamos, New Mexico was engulfed in fire. Raging, windswept fires surged and licked and danced their way into high desert canyons, along windswept valleys and river gorges, destroying at whim anything that came in contact with the storm. Some 50,000 acres of land were destroyed; countless homes and myriads of lives, the two-footed variety as well as the winged and the four-footed ones. Now let me make it clear, I do not like fire. Well, the bonfire at the camp or fire in the fireplace is ok but even that has a mind of its own that leaves me feeling anxious. I saw a home destroyed by fire as a little girl and that has stayed with me. So I was rather content to watch the smoke and ash in the air making its way to Albuquerque from Los Alamos some 90-100 miles north of us, and I was content to lament the plight of the firefighters as I saw the slurry bombers head out, flying mission after mission from the Air Force base near my home until late in the night, and I was really quite content to care for the patients who came to Albuquerque for care. Just leave the fire there and leave me right where I was, thank you very much. And then the "crisis" came. The hospital for which I worked was putting together a team to go give aid. Oh, look, there's my name on the list to lead one of the first groups in. Have you ever prayed so hard and so fast that the "Amen" meets the "Dear God" coming and going with barely a breath in between?

Well, you know, in the midst of being called into fire there is God and there is guidance and there is redemption. For me, the redemption came in the form of severe life-long asthma (not something I usually count as a blessing but ok); there was no way I could go into the fray. I went home that day feeling 'rescued' from something. But that night was a fitful night of sleep, in my dreams, fire rained from every corner, it danced in the sky, it surrounded me and tongues of flame spoke to me with words that called to my soul, calling me to the task that had been given me, to go and be with these people whose very world was being rendered ashes and dust. I woke in the morning with the words of John's Gospel burning to be incarnate. "Peace be with you; as the Father sent me, I am sending you." Through fear and fire the "Paraclete" -- the Holy Spirit -- was calling me. Me?

There is a fire coming. It will swoop and dive, it will dance across the sky filling every corner with flames, it will render everything in its path dust and ashes. And then, something amazing will happen. Out of death there will be life, the wind of the spirit, the paraclete, will come and breathe the Holy Spirit into those who have died and they will raise up and be a great army, as we hear in Ezekiel's story of the Valley of Dry Bones. (Ez 37:1-10) Out of fear and fire, out of crisis and chaos, God will bring about new life and it will be good. That is what happens with fire; soon in the ashes of the wood of the old forest will spring forth new green shoots, and then the birds will slowly return and the squirrels and the deer and so on.

There is a fire coming. Pentecost. You know, that day once a year when the church is festooned in red and we speak in tongues. That day when the church is born anew, when the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, breathes life into each of us, moving us from our own place of fear and crisis to a new place that the Lord has made especially for us, into a fire that is colored by passion, passion for this faith, this church and this people -- passion that will move us into ministries that will change our lives; be they mid-life, young life or beyond. Pentecost is so much more than a day when we celebrate the "birth of the church." It is a day when we are surrounded by tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit and that spirit breathes into us the life-giving breath of a God who loves us from dust to creation through eternity.

See Fire, Page 3

Fire, continued from Page 2

I went into the fire, actually to Santa Fe, not far from Los Alamos and walked with people and sat with people and prayed with people who had been licked by the fire. People who now only had dust and ashes to call their own. And I was blessed. In August 2001, I left everything I had known and had done, driving in the early morning light up through the high mountains out onto the plains to a place I had been called. Seminary. As you know, this year, in April, I continued to follow the calling of the Holy Spirit and joined you. The flames still dance and lick, and the prayers come fast and furious. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

I pray for each of you that the tongues of flame of the Holy Spirit call to your soul, that the Paraclete breathes into each of you the breath of new life in Christ Jesus and therein you find the peace filled knowledge of living in the purpose and passion God has for you and you alone. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

I pray for us, the community of Holy Trinity, that the tongues of flame dance and swirl around us and in us and through us, calling us to that new place in which the trials of this world meet the talents of our congregation, in which our passion meets the world's greatest need, and, together, we join in the birth of the church, here and now. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Transitional Housing Update!! by Elizabeth Chamberlain

After a year of waiting, we have finally been matched with an apartment. We will be furnishing a two-bedroom apartment at the end of May or beginning of June for a family entering the Transitional Housing Corporations Partners Arms I.

For those of you unfamiliar with this program, Transitional Housing Corporation (THC) is a faith-based nonprofit organization in the District that currently provides housing and support services to homeless and at risk families. Up to 27 families work toward lives of independence and dignity while residing in their own apartment located in one of two buildings that THC operates. While families reside in THC housing they receive counseling, life-skills training, parenting classes, job training, and substance abuse counseling.

When we sponsor an apartment our parish agrees to provide all of the furnishings from the beds to the shower curtains. We currently have much of the large furniture that needed to furnish this apartment, but there are still many smaller items we will need to acquire. Also, we need contributions toward moving expenses and purchasing new mattresses as these must be new. Please watch the bulletin for information on how you can help, or call me at 240-463-5376 or email me at eachamberlain@verizon.net



Pray Shawl Ministry to Host Knit-In by Arleen Dale Kirtland

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will host a Knit-In at the home of Jeane Scott on Saturday, May 17, at 1:00 PM. All are welcome – knitting and crocheting lessons are free! For more information, please contact Arleen Dale Kirtland at 240-305-6514 or lawnranger@unidial.com.

Thank You Notes Received from Organizations Holy Trinity Supports

Holy Trinity has received thank you notes from the following organizations for monetary donations they received from Holy Trinity.

They are:

Capital Area Food Bank - \$500.00. Serves the residents of Metropolitan Washington Area who are at risk of hunger.

Baltimore International Seafarers' Center - \$450.00. Provides a number of services to seafarers on ships calling at the Port of Baltimore, including a place to relax, keep in touch with families, and much more. Often crew members are away from home for many months with no shore leave. In addition, they thanked Ed and Barbara Munro, Rev. Mariann Babnis, and the Gilberts who have delivered clothing throughout the year.

SOME (So Others Might Eat) - \$500.00. Provides food, clothing and healthcare to the poor and homeless of the nation's capital.
and

Community Ministry of PG County \$500.00. Works pro-actively with person in need, especially the homeless or just a step away.

Holy Trinity Foster Child Progress Report by Chris Wehrenberg

We recently received an annual progress report from the Christian Children's Fund Maluso Project, the group that manages our support of Cristy Sencio and her family. The full report is posted on the parish bulletin board outside the church office and includes a recent color photo of Cristy, who is looking grown up, healthy, and quite lovely.

The report details changes in Cristy's growth/development as well as benefits and services she and her family have taken advantage of, made possible by our support of this devoted organization. The report reads:

"Cristy has developed her social dealings with others. Being friendly, she gains a lot of friends and enjoys their company. She loves to surf on the internet and do computer works as her favorite pastime.

She is a college student who is an active and cheerful child. She shows positive attitude towards her studies. She is quite thus tries her best to participate during class discussions. She studies her lessons, submits her assignments and projects on time. She participates in various school activities.

Cristy at her age is capable enough of maintaining her personal hygiene. She loves to eat nutritious foods like fruits, vegetables and fish.

Cristy availed educational assistance in terms of free tuition fees, school supplies and uniforms. The family also benefited from the Project medical check-up, medicines, referral to local physician and hospitalization as needs arise.

They took the opportunity of joining project activities like Nutrition Education, monthly meetings, home visitation, CPPS, cleanliness drive, and other trainings/seminars and continuous orientations or SR policy/project policy.

Family is very thankful for all the services rendered to them".

Cristy included a personal message: "*I hope to you and your family a good health and love each other and take care always.*" She has neat handwriting and does pretty well with English.

Holy Trinity parishioners who would like to contribute to Cristy's support may do so by making checks payable to "Christian Children's Fund, Inc.". Forward the gift to the Parish Secretary or Holy Trinity Foster Child Coordinator church office mail box. Just as important would be notes of encouragement and interest in her well-being. If you'd like, feel free to forward cards/letters to me (office mailbox) to send on your behalf or Airmail to:

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

Thanks for including Cristy in your thoughts and prayers.



photo by Sherrill Bower

One of the gift of 100 beautiful tulips Tom and Kathy Andrews sent to the Church from Holland.

Two Positions Needed for Production/Distribution of *The Tidings*

by Karen Sharp, Tidings Co-editor

As you probably know, Sally Gilbert and Sherrill Bower, with able assistance from Della Whorton from time to time, prepare the latest issue of *The Trinity Tidings* for mailing. We are so grateful for their many, many years of service. It is time, however, for them to retire.

Their job entails counting out the correct number of *The Tidings* for mailing, folding all in half, placing an address label on each, stamping each, and delivering all to the United States Post Office. Our Parish Secretary Michelle Upton prints out the labels and gets the postage to make the job easy.

This time-sensitive volunteer opportunity must be performed when *The Tidings* arrives from the printer (usually before the last week of the month) so that delivery to parishioners' homes occurs before the first of the month.

If you are interested in fulfilling this once-a-month job which takes approximately 3 hours, please contact Michelle at 301-262-5353. On the job training is available. Thank you.



photo by Karen Sharp

Healing Services Begin

by Rev. Mariann Babnis

Holy Trinity now has healing services **EVERY Sunday**, instead of only the second Sunday of the month. This exercise was begun after a number of adult education sessions centered on healing.

If you want healing for yourself or on behalf of others, just go up to the healing ministers in the back of the church. They are available during communion at the Baptismal font. They will pray with you and help you to see God's redeeming love.

Also, we have a prayer box outside the church next to the grove of trees. If you would like to leave an anonymous letter, there are pens and paper provided.

If you are interested in being a healing minister, please contact me at mbabnis@htrinity.org or by phone at 301-809-1015.

Final Drawings for Proposed Rectory Renovation and Addition

by Evelyn Kirby

Craig Ryan showed the final proposed drawings of the proposed Rectory renovation and preservation to the Vestry on April 17. By the time you read this, you will also have seen them at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 27. There is still much to be done before a decision can be made to actually go ahead with this or any other project to preserve our beautiful historic building.

If you have not seen the plan, or have any questions, please call any member of the Preservation Committee: Craig Ryan – Chair, Rev. Mariann Babnis, Jim Andrews, Sherrill Bower, Bonnie Branham, Trish Butler, Susan Croft, John Horrocks, Evelyn Kirby, Tom Lackey, Curt Reiber, Harold Sandy, Karen Sharp, Gordon Stewart, Gilbert Taylor.

Day School News

by Laykin Zarro, Marketing and Communications Director

This is one of our favorite times of the year. Our students have many opportunities to showcase their creative talent. The Lower School students performed a fabulous musical showcase at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. The theatre was full of parents, siblings, grandparents, and friends who all came out to the Concert Hall for an hour-long performance. Each grade sang special chapel songs and as an entire division they treated families and friends to favorite songs. Special thanks must go to Carolyn Fitchel, a long-time friend of Holy Trinity, who was instrumental in helping us secure the venue at University of Maryland Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Thanks also go to Chuck Poole for his leadership this year as the interim Head of Lower School. And last but not least, many thanks and much love go to Patty Lewis, for her gift of teaching music for 11 years at Holy Trinity; this concert realized her dream to have the Lower School students showcase their great skills at an end-of-the-year concert.

Over at the Middle School, our congratulations and bravo go to our Wind Ensemble for their outstanding participation in the Dixie Classic Music Festival in Richmond, Virginia. Once again, the students received a “superior” rating, the highest rating possible. In addition, they received great accolades from the festival judges for their mature presentation and skilled musicianship. We are grateful to all families, friends, and teachers who made the trip to Richmond to support our musicians. As always, Music Director Brian Hollar deserves our gratitude for his incredible teaching skills. All bands will perform at the Holy Trinity Spring Concert on May 13 at the Charles Flowers High School at 7.PM.

Under the guidance of Mrs. Patricia Firmani, Drama Director, the Middle School is teeming with Oompa Loompas as the students prepare for their upcoming Spring production of Willie Wonka. We would like to invite the HT church community to the performances on May 7, 8, 9, and 10 at 7 PM at the Daisy Lane Campus.

Thanks to the recent spate of Spring weather, Middle School students enjoyed participating in several outdoor education programs. Fifth graders went to Camp Letts located on the inlet of the Chesapeake Bay while the sixth graders enjoyed busy days of camping at Camp Sheridan. During the trips, students participated in various adventures such as wall climbing, canoeing, swinging on the giant swing, ropes courses, and team-building activities. It was a terrific experience and a great way to build camaraderie among classmates. The seventh graders enjoyed some sailing on the Bay as part of the Literature and the Sea interdisciplinary unit encompassing social studies, science, music, math, art, and foreign language. Students read two novels, short stories, essays and poetry--all pertaining to the sea. The unit culminated with a sailing trip for students and with creative writing. Students will write the first chapter of a sequel to one of the novels read.

Enjoy a fun-filled summer during our Summer Celebration summer camp program. Campers can develop athletic skills, explore the fine arts, enhance study skills, and more. To view the full brochure and to register, visit <http://www.htrinity.org/>.

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

**“Another Link in The Chain”
by Connie Stimpert**



photo by Ron Stimpert

As many of you know, Sian Elizabeth Stimpert will graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy and receive her commission as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy on May 23, 2008. It’s been an amazing journey these past four years, but it really all started for Sian back in 1987 when she was baptized here on her 2nd birthday, and continued through the formative years she spent at Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School, from kindergarten through middle school and graduation with the HTEDS Class of 1999.

That link with Holy Trinity has been made even stronger with the very special gift that Diane Clark is so graciously making to Sian. Come to the 9:30 AM service on May 4 and see what we mean by “Another Link in the Chain” and how Diane’s gift exemplifies this Naval Academy tradition!

The Stimpert family and Diane Clark want to share this special moment with all of the Holy Trinity family because the church and school have been such a significant part of Sian’s upbringing. We want everyone to know that Holy Trinity—the church, its congregation, and its school—are also very important “links in the chain” to Sian. Please join us for refreshments on Sunday, May 4 in Parish Hall, following the 9:30 AM service.



**Support Holy Trinity Day School
100%
Give to the Annual Fund for Excellence**

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, visit the school’s website at www.htrinity.org and click on *support ht*.

**The campaign ends May 31st,
so please consider your gift today.**



Milestones in the Parish

Baptism

March 22 Easter Vigil

Marlow Daniel Buckner
Annabella Lee Taylor

“We receive you into the household of God.”

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.