

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
13106 Annapolis Road
Bowie, Maryland 20720-3829



The Trinity Tidings

NOVEMBER 2008

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

**And the Angel of the Lord
appeared to him in a flame of
fire from the midst of a bush...
God called to him from the
midst of the bush and said,
'Moses, Moses!' And he said,
'Here I am.'
Exodus 3:2, 4**

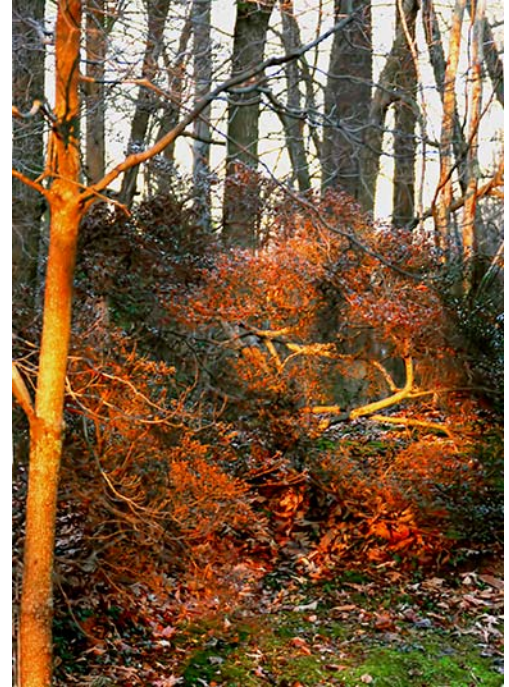


photo by Sherrill Bower

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF HOLY TRINITY! IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT 2009

by Tom Lackey, Stewardship Ministry

Every year, as prudent stewards of the time, talents and treasures which have been given to us, many dedicated members of Holy Trinity give a lot of thought to a financial budget for the church community for the next year. We have now begun that process by requesting your financial commitments for 2009. When these have been accumulated and totaled, the Finance Ministry, with input from other ministries, will formulate a budget to be considered by the vestry.

The level of our commitments will help the leadership of the church make certain decisions as to what programs can be maintained, extended or created. If you have pledged in the past, please think about increasing what you have offered in the past by some percentage. If you have never pledged financial support for Holy Trinity before, please consider doing so for 2009. Next year promises to be an exciting one, and we want you to be a part of that excitement!

For those who do not yet have one, financial commitment forms are available in the back of the church. They can be placed in the offering plate or delivered to the Church Office when completed. You can also make your pledge *online* through a link on the Church's website, <http://holytrinitybowie.edow.org/pledge.html>! If you are not now using offering envelopes and would like to have them, please indicate somewhere on the form your desire to have them provided.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, November 11, 2008

9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

11902 Daisy Lane
13106 Annapolis Road

Glenn Dale, MD 20769
Bowie, MD 20720

For information: 301-363-3215, 301-262-5355, or <http://www.htrinity.org>



HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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

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

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

12:00 NOON – 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 Yuhus (2009) Jim Diggs (2010)

STEWARDSHIP-The Irresistible Invitation

Make no mistake; stewardship is about giving. I'm elongating Stewardship season this year to help us remember, again, what stewardship is all about. Or perhaps this is the first time you are learning about Stewardship and what it means. It is about giving our prayers, our presence, our financial gifts and our services to God and God's work. But things like completed pledge cards and volunteering our time are just the details. Stewardship is really about passing on the good that we have been given; in all the many different ways good things have been given to us.

If we think we already know what stewardship is all about, we miss the opportunity to open our hearts and minds to the new words the Holy Spirit is giving us. The power of anticipation – both for the good and the bad, really can control our life. It can either get us motivated for events we think will be outstanding, or it can shut us down to events we think will be less than interesting. And you know what? Sometimes we're wrong.

In Maxie Dunham's materials from his book *Irresistible Invitation*, he talks about the following scene:

Imagine you're headed to a party, but you don't know that much about the host. There may be some food there; there may not. And even if there is, you may not like it. So, what do you do? You scrounge around at home, looking through leftovers and prepackaged goods to make a quick meal to tide you over. Even if you're not fully satisfied, at least you won't be hungry, right?

But imagine this; you arrive at that party, and the host has laid out the most incredible buffet you've ever seen. It includes an abundance of all of your favorites – even the things that you've never told anyone you desired – and the host invites you to have your fill. The problem is, you already have. You had enough of that less-than-satisfying food to quell your appetite, and frankly, there's no room left.

It's a sad state of affairs when we settle for less than we knew was coming, isn't it? How much more so when that settling is not just about our meal choices, but rather about our relationship with God.

For God doesn't just want more *from* us; God wants more *for* us. God wants us to be alive in Christ, fully walking in his grace, his love, his joy, his peace, his power, and his strength. *Irresistible Invitation: Responding to the Extravagant Heart of God* is trying to help move us toward a more full understanding of this. Through prayer, Bible study, fellowship, an understanding of Jesus' sacrifice, and a dependence on the Holy Spirit, we can approach that buffet of all that God has for us, and we can dig in with confidence.

I invite you to think of this stewardship season as a time for looking long and hard at the buffet of God's blessings, both individually and as a church. If we think we already know all that is there, we are probably missing – or misunderstanding – some important blessings in our lives. If we've filled our hearts and souls with "food" from our human abilities, and we think we no longer hunger for what God has to give then maybe we are full on "empty calories."

Make no mistake; stewardship is about giving. But it is not about giving more than you are able. And it certainly is not all about money. It's about recognizing the many gifts that God is offering you, receiving from that endless bounty, and then returning from that very supply. Return to God from that table that is so full of all of those life-satisfying gifts, so that others might also come and be filled. Only return from the gifts God has given you.

Yours for the journey,
Rev. Leslie M. St. Louis+

Rectory Readers by Mary Yuhás

Our completion of *The Bookseller of Kabul* opened just a tiny window into the pain, suffering and sometimes desperation of just one family in that war-torn city. This was not a book to lift spirits but to expand our world view – just a bit.

On October 22nd we will begin reading Jon Meacham's *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation*. Jon Meacham is the editor of Newsweek and a graduate of The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. "At a time when our country seems divided by extremism, American Gospel draws upon history to offer a new perspective on God and politics. The American Gospel-literally, the 'good news' about America –is that religion shapes our public life without controlling it." Meacham writes from a sensible center point of view and tells the story of a nation grappling with faith and government. In this important election year we book club members hope to see some light to lead us forward by looking back. You are cordially invited to join us on Wednesday mornings from 8 to 10.

Vestry Retreat by Evelyn Kirby, Vestryperson

The Rev. Rhonda McIntire led the Holy Trinity Vestry Retreat on October 17 and 18. She helped us keep in mind throughout our time together how Holy Trinity can be an inviting community for all people to find spiritual nourishment on this holy hill.

With 100% participation, we Vestry members began to identify our expectations of each other as Vestry and clergy. Also, looking forward to Holy Trinity's 300th year and beyond, we began to dream for the future; to work on plans for building up the people of God through preaching, pastoral care, spiritual formation, youth activities, furthering the mission of the church in the world, and in other areas.

This work has just begun and will continue in all these areas in future Vestry meetings and retreats. Please let the Vestry know what questions, concerns and suggestions you may have. (*The names of Vestry members are listed on the second page of The Tidings*).

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

Day School News by Laykin Zarro, Marketing and Communications Director

Many thanks to the parent-teacher association which organized Homecoming Day. Over 500 people attended the event, filled with games, moon bounces, a cyclotron, games, face-painting, and food. Parents enjoyed connecting with one another and many alumni returned to play in the action-packed soccer game against the HT Hawks.

The 6th Grade went to the National Cathedral in Washington, DC to celebrate National Episcopal Schools Day. Together with other students from Episcopal Schools in the metro area, they joined in a special service and had the opportunity to tour the building. The students had lunch on the Cathedral grounds and then visited the National Gallery of Art where they took part in a scavenger hunt of important paintings from the collection.

Congratulations to Holy Trinity musicians Carmin Chappell, Sarah Haines, Katie Skinner, Camille Chrysostom, Sydni Williams, Hannah Hardy, Jacori Hayes, Justin Kelly, Corbin Brooks, Ben Skinner, Andrew Skinner, Elliott Tapscott, Alan Robinson, Philip Newsome, Bryce Layne, Laken Smothers, TJ Proctor, Madison Lee, Laura Tompkins, Jada Twitty, and Joshua Hardy, HT Middle School musicians who auditioned at Thomas Pullen Arts Focus School and were accepted into the Prince George's County Honor Band. Congratulations also to those students who worked hard to prepare the music for the audition: Jasmine Void, Lexi Russell, Eric Rierson, Kendra Pryor, NK Nkwelle, Brianna Graham, Dominique Williams, Monique Muse, and Maya Hartwell. All Middle School students play an instrument and participate in at least one of five bands: Cadet, Concert, Symphonic, Wind, and Jazz. We are grateful for the wonderful guidance of our Music Directors, Mr. Brian Hollar and Mrs. Sara Del-Villano.

Parish Milestones

Baptisms

Amir Eli Alfred, son of Sharian Taylor-Alfred and Shawn Alfred

Frederick Burbank Engert V, son of Melissa Flora Hughes and Frederick Burbank Engert IV
September 28, 2008

"We receive you into the household of God."

Wedding

Amy Verceles and Mark Lusby, September 27, 2008
"Make their life together a sign of Christ's love."

Deaths

Page Bowie Clagett, September 21, 2008
Arnold G. Sparks, Jr., October 8, 2008
John Kavanaugh Russell, October 18, 2008

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