

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



Holy Trinity Youth and Adults on Mission Trip to Southwestern Virginia

Sunday School Starts with Enrollment Up from Last Year
by Donna Rand

The 2008-2009 Sunday School year is underway at Holy Trinity. We are very excited about this school year and our new curriculum, *Seasons of the Spirit*.

Students meet each Sunday from 11:15 AM until 12 Noon. Classes are available for children of all ages from Nursery age through High School seniors and it is never too late to join us! Classes began on Sunday, September 14 and we are happy to report that enrollment is up from last year. We have 33 children registered so far; 14 of them are new to the program.

If you are interested in enrolling your child, please contact Donna Rand at 301-858-0304 or donna.m.rand@gmail.com.

...Children's Chapel Is Coming! ...Children's Chapel Is Coming!

Children's Chapel for 3 to 7 year olds will be held on Sunday mornings in the Parish Hall during the first half of the 9:30 AM service. If you are interested in helping out, or would like more information about this children's service, please contact Elizabeth Chamberlain at eachamberlain@verizon.net or 240-463-5376.



HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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

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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

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Michelle Upton – Secretary
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Diocesan Convention (term expires)

Delegates:

Diane Clark (2009) Kirt Kirtland (2010)

Alternate Delegates:

Mary Yuhas (2009) Jim Diggs (2010)



Annual Crab Feast Is The Best Yet! by Sandy Short

So! Imagine, if you can, a beautiful Indian Summer day filled with fellowship and fun. But, what do you hear? BANGING! Don't be alarmed, the Rectory isn't being torn down. It's just that familiar sound in Maryland of crab mallets.

The Hunger Committee hosted its Annual Crab Feast on September 7, with a record turnout. Over 155 people turned out to eat some crabs and corn. The less adventurous turned to the delicious B-B-Q and potato salad.

Rev. Leslie and her friends from Rochester managed to hold their own and looked like they had grown up eating blue crabs. Looks like she's settling right in!

Thanks to our parishioners and guests, we made \$2,642 for Hunger Relief! (That's a lot of crabs...I mean coins!)

A special thank you goes out to Shoreline Seafood and Red, Hot and Blue and of course you! Thanks for making the Feast our best yet!



Dave Nelson

Photos by Evelyn Kirby



Fran Litzel and Annie Beckley



Tom Lackey and Steve Beitzell

... *Message from the Rector*

Stewardship Challenge. Put Faith Into Action

Dear Members and Friends,

As you are reading this, the days of September are coming to an end and October and the full splendor of fall is upon us. Fall is one of my favorite times of year. I love the crisp clear light and the brilliant colors and the crunch of the leaves on the ground. It is a time when I often say that God is showing off.

In the church, it is a time when our hearts and minds turn to stewardship. I know, for many of you, it is a time that drives you crazy as the church comes to you either overtly asking for money or some clever, or so "they" think, preacher tries to sneak yet one more stewardship sermon by, disguised as something else. I know that in the current economic times it is most likely going to be a difficult subject. Be that as it may, I want to engage stewardship for the next 40 days! I want us to look together at this discipline as part of our spiritual journey both as individuals and as a corporate body.

We are called upon to give generously to the work of the church. When we think of generosity, we might look at the size of the gift or the nobility of the cause. But Jesus measured generosity by a radically new standard: the condition of the giver's heart. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). So, giving is more than an obligation for followers of Christ; it is an exciting opportunity to lay up treasure that will last for all eternity. "The Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35b). Yet statistics show that U.S. Christians give proportionately less than we did during the Great Depression. Today, like no other time in history, God has positioned His people with unprecedented wealth and opportunity to glorify the risen Christ by mirroring His generosity.

These are exciting times at Holy Trinity. We have embarked on a life-changing journey for our church family, and it's a chance for us to fully embrace all that God has for us, both individually and as a congregation. Our goal is to have as many of you as possible engaged in this conversation as possible.

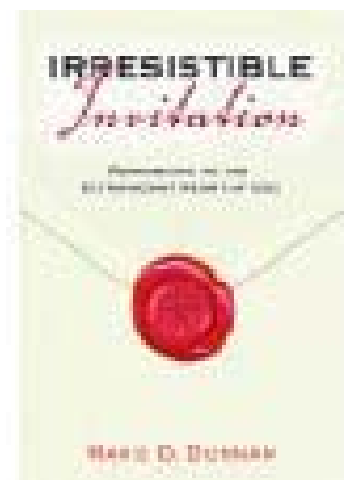
In coming weeks, I will be sharing with you excerpts from the book *Irresistible Invitation: Responding to the Extravagant Heart of God*. This book includes 40 daily readings that will challenge us in our perceptions about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, and we'll have the chance to ask ourselves some probing questions about what we believe and why. I will be sharing these snippets in emails, letters and in sermons. If we don't have you on our e-mail list please get your e-mail to the church secretary, mupton@htrinity.org. I ask that you set aside a few brief moments for introspection each day, and I guarantee that the Lord will meet you exactly where you are. God will begin to fulfill desires of your heart that you might not even realize you have.

At the end of our 40 days, we'll all take part in Commitment Sunday, when we'll have a chance to put our faith into action. That will be here soon enough. For now, let's focus on the task at hand.

Do your best to attend worship services in the coming weeks, and keep your eye out for the start of the campaign. I'd hate for you to miss a moment as we all embark on this journey together. And please, join me in prayer that God would indeed "throw open the floodgates of heaven," as he promises in Malachi 3:10 (NIV), and pour out so much blessing individually and corporately that we don't have room to contain it.

There's so much more to God than we can even imagine. During the course of this 40-days and beyond, however, we'll have an opportunity to see God and his presence in our lives in an entirely new way.

In Christ,
Rev. Leslie



***The Tidings* Seeks New Co-Editor** by Karen Sharp

The Communications Ministry is looking for someone to step into the first year of a three-year cycle as *The Tidings* editor.

The first year is similar to an apprenticeship where one learns the workings, writes articles, encourages submissions, etc.

The second year is full editorship of *The Tidings*, including soliciting articles, setting up the newsletter, sending it to the publisher online, and overseeing the processing and mailing of the printed edition for distribution to parishioners or performing the task independently.

The third year is assisting the editor, as needed.

The order right now is:

Co-editor: Because Evelyn Kirby and Karen Sharp signed up for a 2 year commitment, *The Tidings* currently has no "active" co-editor.

Editors: Evelyn and Karen.

Past Editor: Because Evelyn and Karen signed up for a 2 year commitment, *The Tidings* has no "active" past editor.

As you can see, this is a 3-year commitment (**co-editor, editor, past-editor**), with Year Number 2 being the most involved. Years One and Three are a bit more relaxed.

No experience is necessary, just an enthusiasm to make *The Tidings* the best! If you're interested, please contact [Evelyn](#), [Karen](#) or [Rev. Leslie](#).



photo by Evelyn Kirby

Holy Trinity's Luisa Turcotte lovingly cares for our children in the nursery on Sundays, between 9:15 AM and 12 Noon.

“Script” Gift-Card Proceeds **Benefit Hunger Relief Projects.** **Order Yours Today!** by Sandy Short, Hunger Committee

Get a jump on the holiday rush! The Hunger Committee will be accepting Scrip orders until the beginning of December for gift cards.

What is "Scrip"? Scrip is another name for a gift certificate or gift card. It is a program in which gift certificates are issued by many stores/restaurants in our community where you already shop regularly. (Examples are: Outback, Macy's, Starbucks, Panera, etc.) The Hunger Committee is able to buy these certificates at a negotiated discount and resell them to you at full face value. The discount is the net contribution retained by the Hunger Committee.

All proceeds go to benefit hunger relief locally, regionally, and internationally! Gift cards are great for gifts or to use in your every day shopping experiences.

You can find a full list of retailers at www.glscrip.com

Contact Sandy Short at 301 805-1915 or sandymc1@aol.com to place your orders!

The order form is also available on the church website: holytrinitybowie.edow.org

Keep Up The Good Work! **Keep Up Your Pledge Payments!** by Tom Lackey, Stewardship Ministry

The year of 2008 is fast drawing to a close. It has been a year of progress for us at Holy Trinity and we are all thankful for your continued support. Please take a moment to review your pledge payments for this year. Unless you are up to date with your payments, please try to catch them up as soon as possible. We often see large payments in December, but our church expenses are pretty regular each month of the year.

Your generosity helps make all we do at Holy Trinity possible.

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

Parish Milestones

Birth

Nathaniel Jesse Clowers,
son of Marti Tracy and Nikki Clowers
August 19, 2008

*"Whoever receives a little child in the name
of Christ receives Christ himself."*

Baptism

Christopher Barrington Tong, Jr.,
son of Christopher and Lena Tong
August 24, 2008

"We receive you into the household of God."

Wedding

Jennifer Jones and Mark Lutz
August 9, 2008

"Make their life together a sign of Christ's love."

Deaths

Anna Lucile Morgan Wildman
August 11, 2008

Herbert Morsha-Taylor,
nephew of Gil and Daphne Taylor
August 20, 2008

Brown Bell,
great aunt of Bonnie Branham and Trish Butler
September 12, 2008

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

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.*

**Getting from Here to There
How Rectory Readers Chose
Its First Book for 2008-2009
by Mary Yugas**

Our reading group began the new year on September 10 with the first two sessions planned as opportunities for all to share the books we read during the summer. We heard about some really good books to add to our future reading list! Our first book for this program is *The Bookseller of Kabul* by Asne Seierstad.

But, to back up a little. How did we get to here from there...it's kind of funny, in a round-about way, how we arrived at our first reading choice for this fall. The last book we read in the spring was, *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson.

Mortenson, a mountain climber who fell while attempting to scale K21, and was nourished back to health by a Pakistani village and ended up building not just one school for them but twelve more in the region.

One of the scariest episodes of his many trips between the US and Pakistan and Afghanistan was being captured by the Taliban, released unharmed and – given money to build more schools – for girls!

The story peaked our interest in the region enough so that when the National Gallery of Art had their exhibition on "Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul", we went on a "field trip" organized by Harold Sandy. We saw archaeological masterpieces that spanned Afghan history from 2200 BC to the second century AD. The accompanying movie told the history of this crossroads-of-the-world trade route, known as the Silk Road, and how the goods traded from Rome, India, China, Persia and Siberia found their final home in this region. It also told the story of how they were first discovered, hidden when war threatened, and finally re-discovered and restored for display.

So, another new interest in Afghanistan inspired us to choose *The Bookseller of Kabul*. Norwegian journalist Seierstad tells of her experiences living with the Khan family in Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban. Mostly from a woman's viewpoint, she tells of the tragedy, contradictions, rivalries and daily frustrations of a middle-class Afghan family. Disguised in her burka, Seierstad was accepted as part of the bookseller's extended family, giving her access to people and places that no ordinary visitor would be allowed.

My interest is aroused already; how about yours? It's not too late to join us on Wednesday mornings from 8:00 to 10:00 AM in the Rectory. Please call me for more information. 301-262-1827.

**Youth and Church Members
Learn and Grow During Mission Trip
to Southwestern Virginia
by Chaplain John Daniels, Youth Minister**

On July 27 a small group of church members and youth from Holy Trinity journeyed to Saint Paul, Virginia, and Grace House on the Mountain. In the 1900s, Grace House was one of fifteen missions of the Southwestern Virginia Episcopal Diocese, staffed by deaconesses as a social service program aimed at the issues facing the poverty in the rural and mountain coal mining community.

Since the ordination of women to the Episcopal priesthood, the deaconess order was phased out and Grace House has become learning and training center for the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, continuing its long tradition of outreach to the community.

Each summer, during the month of July, Grace House brings 150-200 people over a four week period to Southwestern Virginia to help families in need of home repairs. The Holy Trinity group repaired roofs, and remodeled the bathrooms for families struggling with poverty or physical disabilities in this rural coal mining community.

We were matched up with the families and learned first-hand what it means to live in a rural coal-mining area. More importantly, we learned from them about what it means to live in this region. Through this interaction, we were changed and we helped change lives in an area that faces many challenges in Southwestern Virginia.

Photos by Ken Wenzel



Left: Bathroom remodel team with Southwestern Virginia mobile homeowner.



Right: Workers chill out while listening to bluegrass.

**Moving Parts
by Rev. Leslie M. St. Louis**

Several weeks ago, approximately 45 members of the parish who participate in what I call “the moving parts of the service” met to discuss some tweaking to the service. We had ushers and acolytes and readers and Eucharistic ministers. After sharing a meal of pizza and soda out on the lawn, we came inside to discuss ways in which we can make our worship experience better. Many thanks to Diane Clark for coordinating the event and for bringing the pizza and soda. We talked about lots of minor changes that hopefully will make our service flow smoothly and create a space where we can all experience the divine presence of God.

You may have noticed the first “change” already. Have you noticed that we now have a “book bearer”? This person carries the Gospel book in as part of the procession and places the Word of God on the altar. That has also imparted a change in our Gospel procession. The book is now carried out into the people from whence the word is proclaimed! Originally, the Word would have been passed on in an oral tradition, usually with people sitting around a storyteller who shared the Good News with those who had gathered. I believe that the same sort of thing is happening here as the word is carried out into the midst of us and we all gather around to hear what the Good News is for this day.

Keep watching the services to see where and what the changes are. I hope that the changes will be subtle, a little tweak here and a small nudge there. I assure you that the changes are being done prayerfully so as to create the best space we can for our Sunday encounters with God. I also promise you that nothing we change is set in stone, so if you don’t like something or wonder about something and especially if you do like something, please speak up!



Acolytes practicing for Sunday Worship

Photo by Evelyn Kirby



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

Ice Cream Social - The Holy Trinity community enjoyed its annual kick-off, the Ice Cream Social at Allen Pond, to celebrate the start of the school year.

New Education Program -The School has introduced a new educational program at the Middle School. All students will experience "extension classes" that are intended to help students improve their thinking skills, add information to their general knowledge, and/or keep students abreast of current events.

Admissions Open House -The School will hold an Open House for prospective parents on November 11, 2008, from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. For additional information, please call our Admissions Office at 301-262-5355.

Annual Fund Kick-Off

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, www.htrinity.org, or contact Corlessia Daniel, Director of Development, at Cdaniel@htrinity.org, or 301-464-3215, ext. 216.



Holy Trinity's Support Makes An Enormous Difference in the Life of Our Foster Child

By Chris Wehrenberg

I'm happy to report that the child we sponsor through the Christian Children's Fund (CCF) is doing so well. Our seemingly small contribution supports not just Cristy, but the entire Sencio family. As the most recent progress report states, "A beautiful and grown-up lady [Cristy] is now on her tertiary level of her schooling". Cristy studies Computer courses. The full report is posted on the parish bulletin board outside the church office and includes a recent color photo of Cristy, who looks grown up, healthy, and beautiful.

As many of you know, the Denison Family led our Foster Child Program for 30 years, sponsoring several children in Holy Trinity's name over those years. Our sponsorship of this one child has lasted a bit longer than usual; CCF felt that if she were supported a little longer, Cristy could graduate from school and begin to earn an income to support herself and her family.

I have a friend who was born in the Philippines and just this summer visited her parents and relatives there. She tells me that the \$35 that Holy Trinity provides per month makes an enormous difference. My friend was reminded of the opportunity and comfort of her American life during her visit home.

We are blessed with abundance. I'm humbled at the thought that this small parish in Bowie, MD can make such a difference in a young girl's life so very far away.

Parishioners who would like to contribute to Cristy's support may do so by making checks payable to "Christian Children's Fund, Inc." Please forward the gift to the Parish Secretary or Holy Trinity Foster Child Coordinator church office mail box.

Equally important are notes of encouragement and interest in her well-being—her birthday is in November, it would be so special for Cristy to receive several birthday wishes from Holy Trinity. If you'd like, I would be delighted to forward cards/letters on your behalf, just send them to me (office mailbox) to forward or airmail (\$.90 stamp) 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.