

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

Trinity Tidings

JANUARY 2007

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Building an open community that connects people to God and their ministries

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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Reverend Mariann Babnis, Assistant Rector
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Tues. – Thurs. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2007

Tuesday	Jan 2	Search Committee Meeting	7:00 pm
	Jan 2	Finance Comm. Meeting	7:30 pm
Thursday	Jan 4	Communications Comm. Meeting	9:00 am
Sunday	Jan 7	Discussion: Via Media (1 of 8)	10:45 am
Sunday	Jan 14	Discussion: Via Media (2 of 8)	10:45 am
Thursday	Jan 18	Vestry Meeting	7:30 pm
Sunday	Jan 21	Discussion: Via Media (3 of 8)	10:45 am
Sunday	Jan 28	Discussion: Diocesan Convention	10:45 am

JANUARY 2007 CALENDAR

Sunday	AA	Parish Hall	8:00 p.m.
Monday	Children's Choir	Church	6:00 p.m.
	Cub Scouts	Parish Hall	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Brownies	Parish Hall	6:30 p.m.
	Girl Scouts	Room 206-208	6:30 p.m.
	Quiet Prayer sessions	Rectory	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Rectory Readers	Rectory	8:00 a.m.
	Contemplative Eucharist	Church	10:15 a.m.
	Education for Ministry (EFM)	Rectory	7:30 p.m.
	Quiet Prayer sessions	Rectory	11:00 a.m.
Thursday	Boy Scouts	Parish Hall, Rm 208 & Nursery	7:30 p.m.
	Adult Choir	Church	7:30 p.m.
	Vestry (3 rd Thursday)	Rector's Office	7:30 p.m.
Friday	Brownies (2 nd and 4 th Friday)	Room 204	3:00 p.m.
Saturday	CoDA	Room 208	8:30 a.m.
	Quilting Group (1 st & 3 rd Saturday)	Kirtland's home	10:30 a.m.

HOLY TRINITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

13106 Annapolis Road
Bowie, Maryland 20720-3829
Phone: 301-262-5353
Fax: 301-262-9609

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II
(w/Children's' Chapel 2nd-5th Sunday-
Parish Hall)

10:45 -Fellowship & Education
Sunday School
Youth Group
Discussion Hour
Adult Bible Study

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

10:15 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

TRINITY TIDINGS

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Gerry Perez – Senior Warden

Craig Ryan – Junior Warden

Outreach: Eric Maurer, Debbie Robinson
(Focus: Evangelism and Community Service)

Christian Formation: Candace Carlisle,
Tom Lackey, Craig Ryan

(Focus: Education, Youth, Stewardship)

Worship and Music: Rev. Bruce McPherson,
Gloria Jarmon, Kathryn Zarate

Parish Life: Annie Beckley, Katherine Mathis
(Focus: Parish Life, Episcopal Church Women,
Pastoral Care, Communication,
Day School-Church Relations)

Parish Operations: Gerry Perez
(Focus: Administration, Personnel, Leadership,
Finance & Budget, Building & Grounds)

Ex officio

Mark Kalber -Treasurer

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Katherine Mathis – Chair, Holy Trinity

Episcopal Day School Board

From the Interim Rector

Rev. Bruce McPherson

The Epiphany Promise

In the Book of Isaiah, the prophet promises to Jewish exiles in Babylon that their day in the sun would be coming soon and that Jerusalem would return to its former prominence. “Arise, shine; for your light has come,” he sings, “and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.” (60:1-3) That was in the 6th Century B.C.E.

Six hundred years later, the light that had begun to shine in the stable on Christmas Day blazed in the heavens. Following that light, three wise kings headed to Jerusalem looking for “the glory of the Lord.” As it happened, a troubled King Herod consulted his advisors when they appeared and learned from reading the prophet Micah that Bethlehem was the right place to go. “But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you is to come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel, one whose origin is from of old...” (5:2) Imagine that! Looking for God’s glory, the wise kings were wrong to go the golden majesty of Jerusalem, but needed to look in its tiny rural suburb where ordinary folks tried to scrape out a living in an ordinary way day by day.

Bethlehem is only nine miles from Jerusalem. The wise men had a long history of sophisticated learning and intellectual achievement. But they had missed their mark by nine miles and by much more in terms of the way of life of both places. They were called then to travel the extra miles and, as scripture says, after making their offering to God-in-Christ, they went home by a different way.

Our task this Epiphany is to let the ordinariness of Micah 5 disrupt the vanity of Isaiah 60. Most of us are looking in the wrong place. We are off by nine miles. We are now invited to travel those hard extra miles away from our comfortable conclusions and accepted understandings. Epiphany is a good time to begin the journey. The way beyond is not about security and success but about openness, vulnerability, generosity of spirit, and loving-kindness. It’s about boldness

of vision and determined discipleship. It's about discovering the nearness of the kingdom of God. It is about loving our neighbors as ourselves. It's important because it's about allowing the Holy Trinity family to grow into the full stature of the community that God intends for this church.

The wise men made the trip and so must we. This means that we are called to be open to a new vision of the future, a whole new chapter in the life of Holy Trinity and perhaps even the world. When we reach the stable that rests under the star we will discover that God has gotten there ahead of us. That discovery is likely to cause us to see ourselves, and the world around us, differently. It's only a short distance, but everyone who makes the trip goes home differently. That is the promise of Epiphany and that is its challenge.

May the star that brightens the Epiphany sky, brighten your lives throughout the year and shed new light on our journey together.

Bruce

Search Committee News

Please accept our heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in the Search Committee's Sunday Discussion in November. We appreciate that many of you made special arrangements for children or adjusted your schedule to be able to attend. It was wonderful to interact with parishioners from both services. Your feedback was invaluable.

The information you provided is enabling us to develop questions for a broader scale Parish Survey to be conducted in February - be on the lookout for that. Then the results from the Sunday Discussion and Parish Survey will be compiled and made part of the Parish Profile document that provides potential rector

candidates with valuable information about Holy Trinity. You can see how important your input is to the process!

The Search Committee is right on track with the overall process of selecting Holy Trinity's next rector. Please continue to keep us and our work in your prayers.



Welcome to Joanne And New Vestry Members!

We are delighted to welcome Joanne Bauer to the Holy Trinity staff as Parish Secretary. Joanne has many years of administrative experience, most recently at the Washington Hospital Center and before that, at Saint Luke Lutheran Church in Silver Spring. Joanne lives in Bowie and has a lively interest in the dramatic arts. She is a faithful Presbyterian, a fact that adds richness to our staff. Please come by and introduce yourself to Joanne. You will be glad you did.

Joanne's email address is jbauer@htrinity.org.

We also welcome Ames Perry and Evelyn Kirby to the Vestry. They are filling out unexpired terms.

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

Healing Prayer

It has been quite a while since I spoke about Healing Prayer. It was introduced to HT by Diane Carroll when she spent time with us as a Seminarian. She met with a group of interested parishioners at the back of the church and had us open the BCP to page 456. That is where you can find the various suggested prayers and as you know, if you have ever availed yourself of this second-Tuesday feature of our services, the prayers are adjusted to meet with the comfort level of the individual Healing Prayer Ministers.

After about three sessions, I very slightly adjusted my prayer but keep it short and simple and leave the door open to add in names and special wishes as the occasion requires.

Recently, I offered the prayer to a friend who has surgery upcoming. She is one of the many people who are "skeptical about this God business." There are many in that category so she is hardly alone. I held her hands and spoke the prayer. Afterwards, she seemed a bit flustered... a bit embarrassed. Again she told me of her doubts. I tried to explain that the prayer was my way of offering her support and that I was asking Christ to help. "I am asking the God in which I believe to lend you a hand. That is what this prayer is all about: asking God to lend a helping hand."

In May of 2003 I spoke to the church, primarily about EFM, but in the talk spoke of Healing Prayer. I said, "*When laying on hands and praying with someone, I have an overwhelming feeling of deep caring and support for that person and the people for whom they pray. I am mingling my soul and spirit with theirs and reaching out with them to the highest power, praying for their well-being. Deeply involved in this act is my well being too. Laying-on-of-hands is a deeply meaningful gesture and one in which I am pleased and grateful to participate.*" This still applies and I have come to think of the Healing Prayer many times each day. As I do, those for whom I pray and have prayed are again involved.

Yesterday I received this brief story which speaks to the God to whom we pray.

We Are Never Alone

Do you know the legend of the Cherokee Indian youth's rite of passage? His dad takes him into the forest, blindfolded and leaves him alone.

He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not take off the blindfold until the ray of sun shines through it. He is all by himself. He cannot cry out for help to anyone. Once he survives the night, he is a MAN. He cannot tell the other boys of this experience. Each lad must come into his own manhood.

The boy was terrified, could hear all kinds of noise; beasts were all around him. Maybe even some human would hurt him. The wind blew the grass and earth and it shook his stump. But he sat stoically, never removing the blindfold. It would be the only way he could be a man.

Finally, after a horrific night, the sun appeared and he removed his blindfold. It was then that he saw his father sitting on the stump next to him, at watch, the entire night. We are never alone. Even when we do not know it, our Father is protecting us. He is sitting on the stump beside us.

All we have to do is reach out to Him.

What a beautiful story.
I wish you all God's Peace.
Steve Cone



Advent Event a Big Success!

A huge “thank you” to the Upper Grade Youth Groups, who organized, arranged and participated in the Advent Event early in December. We appreciate “Santa’s Elves” who manned the ornament stations.

This is a Holy Trinity tradition, which has been handed one from generation to generation. One highlight of the event was Hunger Committee’s Heifer Project Ornaments. If you are like the Cloutier family, you now have a collection of 10+ years of the Hunger Committee ornaments reminding us... “It is better to give than receive”. Many, many blessings and thanks to Verena Smith and Debbie Leilich.

Praise should be given to Craig Ryan, Ken Wenzel, Trish Butler and Cathy Clark who were the “behind-the-scene” **larger** elves bringing everything together beautifully.

Peace to all in 2007!



The Regers, hard at work at the Advent Event

Day School Winter Open House

The day school will hold its Winter Open House for prospective parents on Thursday, January 11, 2007 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at both campuses. Tours for parents interested in Grades 1 - 4 will be held at the Lower School. Tours for parents interested in preschool/kindergarten, and/or grades 5 – 8 will be held at the Glenn Dale campus, which is located at 11902 Daisey Lane. For additional information, please call our Admissions Office at 301-262-5355.

Thanks from the Altar Guild

On behalf of Holy Trinity I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone that purchased a poinsettia to beautify the church during the Christmas season. Also, a big thank-you to everyone that helped make it beautiful for all of us to enjoy.

If anyone is interested in our work, feel free to call me or any other member of the Altar Guild. Our names are listed every week in the church bulletins and monthly in the Tidings. If you'd like to join us, we loved to have you.

Comic Relief

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. So, he took out a business card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10." Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter.

Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid, for I was naked."

Day School Students Celebrate the Spirit of Giving

The spirit of giving filled the halls of the day school this holiday season as students organized various gift drives to brighten the holidays for those in need. Every student, from the 3- and 4-year old preschoolers to eighth-graders had a role to play in this undertaking, which began before Thanksgiving and continued until the Christmas Break. This year, students collected canned goods, coats, hats and mittens for families in need, designed colorful ornaments and donated socks for hospitalized veterans, sponsored over 100 children and purchased gifts for them to enjoy at Christmas, wrote holiday wishes to our service men and women serving in Iraq, filled gift boxes to overflowing with personal care items and special treats for homeless individuals, and more. All of us at Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School are grateful for the bounty in our lives. Through their collective efforts, students made the holiday season a blessed time for others in our community.



In December, a Christmas tree in the Preschool hallway provided a fitting place for students to hang their donations of hats and mittens for those in need.



Fourth-graders created colorful ornaments to brighten the holiday season for hospitalized veterans. The students made 62 ornaments and donated 50 pairs of socks to the VFW Ladies Auxiliary.

Volunteer Substitute Sign Changer Sought

As parishioners are aware, the Church and the Lower School have a new sign on Annapolis Road. Both entities publicize on both sides of the sign information significant to parishioners, parents and, students.

A member of the parish's Communications Ministry Committee is the volunteer sign changer for both the Church and the Lower School; however, a need exists for a substitute, who, from time to time, may be called upon to perform the duty.

This volunteer substitute sign changer job, which usually takes about 1 hour, includes:

1. obtaining the new sign message from the Lower School office,
2. getting the key for the sign locks from the church secretary,
3. pulling 2 sets of letters for the new sign from the storage file box in the church office,
4. unlocking both sign covers,
5. removing letters from both sides of the sign,
6. placing new letters on both sides of the sign,
7. relocking both sign covers,
8. returning the sign locks key to the church secretary,
9. cleaning the pulled letters, and
10. filing the cleaned letters away in the storage filing box in the church office.

Those interested in applying for this volunteer opportunity (and receiving hands-on-training for the position), are asked to contact the parish secretary at (301) 262-5353. Thank you.

ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE

8:00 A.M.

Date	Lector	Intercessor	Euch. Min.	Acolyte	Usher
Jan 7	R. Anderson M. Fallon	K. Sharp	S. Cone		R. Trisko H. Tucker
Jan 14	J. Brown B. Brown	S. Cone	S. Allen		T. Kirby L. Anderson
Jan 21	W. Brown M. Yuhas	J. Trisko	J. Diggs		R. Curbelo R. Anderson
Jan 28	V. Esmacher J. Scott	S. Esmacher	R. Anderson		R. Trisko H. Tucker

9:30 A.M.

Date	Lector	Intercessor	Euch. Min.	Acolyte	Usher
Jan 7	T. Browne A. Maurer	B. Branham	C. Harman E. Maurer	H. Cloutier; A. Maurer; M. Wenzel	A. Sparks R. Blass
Jan 14	N. Short A. Beckley	C. Andren	G. Perez K. Kalber	R. Bowen; K. Townsend-Gray; H. Townsend-Gray	A. Beckley T. Sykes
Jan 21	E. Sobansky K. Evans	G. Jarmon	T. Lackey K. Kirtland	D. Townsend-Gray; D. Bowen L. Tompkins	G. Perez N. Evans
Jan 28	T. Jones D. Howe	A. Kirtland	D. Clark B. Nelson	D. Nelson; A. Nelson; C. Taylor	R. Blass M. Powell

Altar Guild: Jan 1-15: Sally Gilbert & Kirt Kirtland Jan 16-31: Marcia Edelschein & Marge Laios

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

8:00 am Eucharist - Rite I
(healing prayer on 2nd Sunday)

9:30 am Holy Eucharist - Rite II (healing prayer on 2nd Sunday)
*Nursery care provided for your infant,
9:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Children’s Chapel – Ages 3-6 – Parish Hall
(Except 1st Sunday: Children attend church with their parents)*

10:45 am Fellowship and Refreshments
Start in the Parish Hall and on to:

11:00 am Education Hour (Sept to mid June)
Sunday School - var. classrooms in Parish Hall
Rite 13 – Ages 12-13 – in the rectory
Journey to Adulthood (J2A) Ages 14-15 – in the rectory
Discussion Hour – Topics of interest and fellowship in an informal setting
Bible Study – Room 204 (Sept-June)
Healing Ministry – Prayer Garden