



The Trinity Tidings

OCTOBER 2007

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

**"To everything - turn, turn, turn
There is a season - turn, turn, turn
And a time for every purpose under
heaven."**

Turn, Turn, Turn
lyrics by Pete Seeger,
based upon Ecclesiastes 3:1



photo by Sherrill Bower

IMPORTANT AFRICA/CHRISTIANITY UPDATE by Richard Keller, Christian Education Ministry Committee Member

What is important for us to know about the continent of Africa besides a cursory awareness of civil war, poverty, disease, starvation, refugeism and the diamond industry?

Probably the "why" behind these things and what can be done about correcting the abuses and mind-sets behind these difficult realities. Also it would be helpful to learn about the "whos" (including us) who are making a difference and can make a difference in a land of so much promise.

On **October 7 and 14**, Gilbert Taylor will inform us at the **Sunday Discussion (10:50 -11:50 AM)** about if and how such events touch his native country of Sierra Leone. Godwin Madueke has taken a job with the Nigerian government but he is lining up someone to speak similarly about Nigeria.

In addition, this 2-part series called "Christianity in Africa" will touch on what it was/is like growing up in Sierra Leone and Nigeria; what it was/is like being a Christian in those places and Africa in general and in comparison with the United States of America; and thoughts will be given on why Christianity is growing in certain places on the continent.

YOU ARE INVITED to join the presentation and discussion, and bring someone with you!

October Sunday Discussion Topics

presented in the Parish Hall, following the 9:30 AM service

- October 7 **Christianity in Africa** – G. Madueke, R. Keller, G. Taylor
- October 14 **Christianity in Africa** – G. Madueke, R. Keller, G. Taylor
- October 21 **Sandwich Making/Search Committee**
- October 28 **Holy Trinity Ghosts & Saints** – K.Evans, G.Stewart, A.Laurenson, E. Eisenhart



HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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

(October -May)

10:15 AM – Holy Eucharist, Rite II

THE TRINITY TIDINGS

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The Tomato Effect by Rev. Bruce McPherson, Interim Rector

Theodore Levitt was a widely admired professor at the Harvard Business School until his death. Among other things, it was he who coined the term “globalization.” Levitt pointed out that one of the things that makes change so difficult is what he called the “Tomato Effect.” It seems that Spanish explorers discovered the tomato in South America and brought it to Spain where it quickly spread to the rest of Europe. The Italians called it “pomodoro” and French “pomme d’amour” because they thought it had certain qualities that would promote love. However, this fruit that was so widely used in Europe, had little acceptance in the Americas. It is a member of the nightshade family of plants, some of which are poisonous. Therefore it was not grown because it was thought that cultivating tomatoes was cultivating death.

Levitt used this example to point out that all information has emotional content. Even if there is evidence that something is needed, effective or tasty, we may reject it. If it does not fit into our own frame of reference we can deny it altogether, trivialize its effectiveness or simply neglect it. Some thought the tomato a delicious fruit; others thought it a poison. He wrote about this in the context of the railroad industry. Railroads did not cease growing because people and freight no longer needed transportation. Levitt says that they declined because they thought they were in the railroad business, not the transportation business. They confused means (railroads) with ends (transportation). In contrast, the Stanley Tool Company does not believe that they sell drills. They sell “holes.”

Congregations easily fall for the “tomato effect.” We are a people who value tradition. We think of church as “family” and don’t ever want to lose that family feeling. This can and does make it possible for us to deny, trivialize or simply neglect information and attitudes that don’t seem to fit into our basic frame of reference. Need and importance are not factors. But to do this is to confuse means and ends. Tradition is not an end in itself nor is the family feeling a reason for the existence of the church. Many observers speak of maintenance-oriented congregations and mission-oriented congregations. Maintaining the church is important, but it is important only because it is the means by which Christ’s message of salvation is carried into the world ... a world that badly needs to hear that message. We are not in the “church” business; we are in the “mission” business. If being in mission to the larger community means erecting a tent on Route 450, that is what we should be prepared to do.

See **TOMATO EFFECT**, page 3, Col. 1

TOMATO EFFECT, *From page 2*

Peter Steinke, a Lutheran pastor and congregational consultant, urges all congregations to be learning congregations. Congregations that are continually learning are flexible and adaptive. Rigid congregations do not learn and can become blind to their own blindness. "Learning," he writes, "is struggling. But precisely because of the tension, we learn. To avert the struggle is to doom learning." There are days when I think that Holy Trinity is a model "mission-oriented church." But that is not every day. Let us not confuse the toxic weed with the sweet fruit, nor maintenance with mission and ministry. Let us continue to learn together.

Bread For The World

by Verena Smith, Hunger Committee Member

Bread for the World is a Christian citizens' movement that envisions a world without hunger. It has 58,000 members including 2,500 churches. This non-partisan organization is supported by 45 denominations representing a diversity of theological perspectives.

For more than 30 years, *Bread for the World* has urged our nation's decision-makers to address root causes of hunger at home and abroad. *Bread* members act out of a conviction that citizenship is one of our greatest resources and should be offered up to God in service of hungry and poor people."

Bread members are asked to send letters to our congressmen and women urging them to support bipartisan bills that directly benefit the poor and hungry of the world. In the past, Holy Trinity has participated in Offering of Letters in support of such bills. I am hoping that we will do so again.

For more information about this organization and ways in which you can help in their mission, please visit their website at www.bread.org.

Holy Trinity's New Bookkeeper
by Karen Sharp, Tidings Co-editor

Please welcome Fritz Miller, Holy Trinity's new bookkeeper. With over 40 years' experience in accounting, Fritz has owned and operated Miller Accounting Services, Inc., for the past 7 years, serving non-profit organizations, corporations, partnerships, and individuals. Annapolitans Fritz and his wife Estelle have 2 sons and 5 grandchildren. Fritz coached youth sports for over 35 years; Estelle, a retired Prince George's County School system employee, now has the full time job of caring for one of their grandchildren during the week. Stop by to say "hi" to Fritz; he will have regular office hours on Tuesdays, between the hours of 10 AM and 2 PM.

Assisting in the Service & Monthly Calendar are now online:

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

Calling All Dogs & Cats (& any other animal)!

by Rev. Mariann Babnis, Assistant Rector

Holy Trinity's annual **Blessing of the Animals** will be held on **Saturday, October 6, at 10:00 AM** in front of the church. The feast will also include animals from Prince George's Animal Shelter looking to be adopted.

The Blessing celebrates St. Francis, known for his love of all living creatures, whose Feast Day is October 4. In Genesis, God gives humans 'dominion' over all animals. That is, God entrusts them into our care. Our companion animals depend entirely on us for their health and well-being.

So come and celebrate the gift of these wonderful creatures of God on the first Saturday in October. Also, as is our tradition, please bring a **bag of food** to be donated to the Prince George's County SPCA.

Chapel Forge Early Childhood Center

12711 MILAN WAY
BOWIE, MARYLAND 20715



Elyse Hurley
Principal

Telephone: 301-805-2740

January 5, 2007

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
13106 Annapolis Road
Bowie, MD 20715

Dear Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Members,

The Chapel Forge Early Childhood Center's Family Involvement Committee would like to thank you for all of the help you gave us in making the December holidays more joyous for many of our Chapel Forge families. Your generous donation of \$500 in food gift cards for the holiday season helped us to provide our needy students and their families complete holiday meals.

Your partnership with our school is so very important to us that we continue to list you as a Community Partner on our website <http://www.pgcps.org/~chapel/>. In May we honor our benefactors with a special luncheon we would like you to attend. Please look for the invitation to arrive closer to that time.

Again, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your help!

Elyse Hurley, Principal

Family Involvement Committee

Prince George's County Public Schools
Board of Education

SCH-981

Gift Cards for Sale!

by Sandy Short, Hunger Committee Member

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 these gift certificates are issued by many stores/restaurants in our community where you already shop regularly (i.e., Outback, Macy's, Panera Bread). 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.

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!

Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School News Briefs

by Laykin Zarro, HTEDS Director of Communications

The Eighth Graders' Annual Car Wash at Glenn Dale Firehouse on Saturday, October 20, from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, will raise money for their class gift. Please support their cause and get your car washed!

Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School will hold its annual **Secondary Education Night** on October 23, 2007, from 7-8.30 PM, at the Daisey Lane campus. Representatives from area high schools will share information about their curriculum and extracurricular activities. The event is free and the public is invited. For additional information call 301-262-5355.

The Day School Open House for prospective parents is Monday, November 12, 2007, from 9:30 - 11:30 AM. Tours for parents interested in grades 1 – 4 will be held at the Lower School, located at 13106 Annapolis Road, Bowie; tours for parents interested in preschool/kindergarten, and/or grades 5 – 8 will be held at the Glenn Dale campus, located at 11902 Daisey Lane. For additional information, please call the HTEDS Admissions Office at 301-262-5355.

The Day School kicks-off its **Annual Fund for Excellence**, on October 1. This annual-giving campaign 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 at <http://www.htrinity.org> and click on *support ht*. The Day School values the support it receives from Holy Trinity church members. The campaign ends April 30, so please consider your gift today.

World Hunger Day Fundraiser by Sue Croft, Hunger Committee Member

The official observance of **World Hunger Day** will be **October 16, 2007**. The **Hunger Committee** will have its **observation on Monday, October 15**, and we are inviting every member of the parish to join with us. We will be eating **at the Bowie Chick-fil-A** (16503 Ball Park Road) **in the evening** AND a portion of the proceeds that evening will be given to the Hunger Committee which will, in turn, give 100% of the money raised to help fight world hunger. Please check the Sunday bulletin for more specific information regarding this fundraiser and fun event.

As always, we look forward to your attendance and support.

A Special Thank You

Words cannot begin to express how grateful we are for everything that the church did during the time immediately after Dale's passing. Each card, phone call, prayer, and visit helped us immeasurably. A very special thank you to everyone who helped make the memorial service and reception a wonderful celebration of Dale's life. Everything was just perfect and a true testament to how much support our church family offers each other.

In God's peace,
Dale Baker's family

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.

Martha's Table by the Numbers

by Elizabeth Chamberlain, Hunger Committee Member

Each month Holy Trinity gears up for its monthly sandwich making for Martha's Table. Many people have expressed interest and asked questions about the organization Martha's Table so here are some facts:

558,000	the number of meals and snacks served by Martha's Table in the past year
6,500	the number of holiday meals served each year to needy individuals
3,000	the minimum number of sandwiches distributed every day
300	the number of low-income or homeless toddlers in the day care/ afterschool programs
250	the average number of sandwiches Holy Trinity donated each month last year
85	the number of meals delivered to senior centers around Washington, DC each weekend
65	the gallons of soup made and distributed daily
35	the average number of minutes that it takes to make sandwiches at Holy Trinity each month
15	the average number of parishioners that assist in the sandwich making at Holy Trinity

Remember, the only limits on the number of sandwiches we donate are the amount of supplies you donate and the number of hands that help put those sandwiches together. We currently need donations of all supplies including bread, bologna, cheese, peanut butter, jelly (or jam which is easier to spread) sandwich bags, and empty boxes to pack the sandwiches in. Please come by and help out at the October Sandwich Sunday (10/21/2007).

Also, we are looking for anyone who might be able to deliver the sandwiches on Sundays when I may be away with the Search Committee. It usually takes about an hour to deliver the sandwiches and return home after church on Sunday. If you would be interested in helping out, please call me, Elizabeth Chamberlain at 301 464-5897 or email me at echamberlain@mindspring.com.

Sunday School Update

by Donna and David Rand, Sunday School Superintendents

Fall is upon us and that means the return of Sunday School. If you have children interested in attending or if you may be interested in teaching, please let us know. We are always ready to welcome more students and teachers. For more information please contact Dave or Donna Rand at d1rand@comcast.net or dma21@juno.com.

Stewardship Upside Down

by Tom Lackey, Stewardship Ministry Committee Chair

When most of us think about Stewardship, we think about **giving**. I like to think about the opposite of what one normally thinks... In other words, I think that Stewardship is about **receiving**. We have been given so much by God, and our responsibility is to do something with that treasure that we have received.

This month we will be asking you to make a financial pledge for the continuing good works of Holy Trinity. Think about what Holy Trinity means to you. All of the good works at Holy Trinity depend not only the physical commitments, but also the financial commitments of our parishioners.

Let's make 2008 a year to remember at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church!!

Ad Hoc Signage Committee Formed by Bob Laurenson, Chair, and Karen Sharp, Communications Ministry Committee

The Communications Ministry Committee has created the Ad Hoc Signage Committee to study the feasibility of getting additional signage for Holy Trinity along MD 450.

Communications Ministry Committee Chair Bob Laurenson has appointed Buildings and Grounds Committee Chair Curt Reiber and Communications Ministry Committee member Karen Sharp to research pertinent issues with the State of Maryland (since MD 450 is a State highway) and Prince George's County. This Ad Hoc Committee will be looking at posting welcoming signs, naming our drive, getting speed limits and warning signs erected for the Lower School and obtaining any required permits.

To learn more about this process and get an update on its progress, please plan to attend the next Communications Ministry Committee meeting in the Day School's Daisey Lane conference room on October 11 from 9 to 11 AM. All are welcome.



photo by Karen Sharp

Welcome Michelle Upton by Rev. Bruce McPherson, Interim Rector

We are delighted to announce that **Michelle Upton** has agreed to take on the responsibility of Parish Secretary beginning Monday, September 17.

Michelle recently moved to Bowie from Austin, TX so that her husband, Jeff, could assume the position of Pastor at the Bowie Church of Christ.

The Uptons have two children, 9-year old Evan and Emily Ann, age 5.

Please introduce yourself to Michelle. You will enjoy getting to know her.

Mary Warren-Oliver, who has served Holy Trinity for the past 5 months has found it necessary to stay at home with her ailing mother. We will miss Mary, but will call upon her from time to time as the need may arise.

Search Committee Update by Elizabeth Chamberlain, Search Committee Member

We Search Committee members have spent an industrious Summer reviewing the resumes and written responses that we have received to our questions. We have been excited and energized by the quality of our applicants, and we eagerly looked forward to the phone interviews that began mid-September. We hope to interview the remaining 16 applicants and begin our site visits by the end of October.

As we have begun to plan our site visits, we wondered if anyone in the parish might be in a position to help offset the costs of these visits (i.e., frequent flier miles/points to share or employee discounts with airlines or hotels). If you can assist us in our travel plans, please contact Steve Eschmacher, our Chair, at esmachers@yahoo.com or 410-923-4230. We all want to thank the parish for your continued support of our efforts and we invite everyone to attend our monthly discussion hours after the Sunday 9:30 AM service.

Bowie Community Pantry Needs Our Support

by Peg Johnson, Hunger Committee Member

The need for food continues to rise and reserves at the Bowie Community Pantry have dwindled to a dangerously low level. Non perishable food items may be placed in the food basket located in the narthex/vestibule here at Holy Trinity on any Sunday.

Tom and Mary Sykes will deliver this food to the Pantry. Your donations are greatly needed and your kindness will be greatly appreciated by those in need.