

The TIDINGS

A Publication of the
Faith Community of
Trinity Episcopal Church
The Woodlands, TX

Volume VIII, Number 6
November - December 2012

Dear Trinitarians,

It is called "entering the holiday season." That is the three month period when we are defined as consumers with purchasing power.

It begins with candy, black and orange decorations, costumes of every kind, then food, food, and more food for Thanksgiving with a few decorations that indicate the bounty from the earth; Then red and white, snow and winter themes. We go into debt because we are given permission by the banks and stores to do so... it is an expectation.

Now, what has been placed under the surface (or worse, given lip service) is the theme of family and love, thankfulness and joy... and God, the creator of Heaven and earth. These things get lost in the rush to have the perfect themed event, to make everyone amazed at what we do or give, or to outdo last year...

We have turned what once was called "Holy Days" into non-religious holidays... fun and food rather than Grace and activities to the Glory of God.

As we continue this season may we do our best to make God the center of each activity... May we give Christ the chair at the head of the table. May our gifts glorify God and benefit the faith of others and the Kingdom of God.

May prayer be first – before food, presents, football, and parties. May Christ be honored in our home and in our celebrations. May our lives reflect the holiness of our faith, and the joy of Christ's presence.

May we be Christian first and consumers somewhere after that.

May we give thanks to God and give our best to Christ. May we live this holiday season and a season of Holy Days.

*Peace,
Father Gerry+*

CURATE COMTEMPLATIONS

Remembering not Resolution

Sunday December 2nd marks the first day of Advent, the time when we anticipate the birth of Christ, and the start of the Christian liturgical year. I usually start new years with resolutions for living a better or holier life. Most years this begins fantastically, but despite my best efforts, resolutions rarely hear the Easter Proclamation. I know that I am not alone.

This Advent I am going to take a different approach. I resolve not to resolve, but to remember. It is very easy for me to forget that God has never abandoned His people. I can hardly go one waking hour without being confronted by the painful reality of a broken world. However, as Christians we believe that in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus we have been given eternal life, and that all things have been made new and whole. As the body of Christ, we take our place as participants in that unfolding truth and sit in anticipation of that great and final day when Jesus comes back and all will be fully realized. As the Church we are once again living in Advent. We are waiting for the return of Christ.

So this December 2nd, let us begin to remember. Remember that as God's people we once waited for the birth of Jesus, and as the body of Christ we wait for his return. In the meantime, let us rejoice in confidence that God has not left us alone, and our waiting is never in vain.

*Shalom,
Deacon Sean*

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Betsy and I are overwhelmed with the love and support that the Trinity Family has shown us over the past few months. Never in our lives did we think that we would write a thank you for getting "pounded", but here we are. The amount of goods that we received from everyone was bountiful, and the notes of welcome and encouragement were heart-warming. We are truly blessed to be here, and look forward to serving with everyone during this time.

May God's blessings and Grace be upon us all!

The Steele Family



OUTREACH



Trinity, The Woodlands, reports phenomenal success with our first Facebook advertisement. While Trinity has had a Facebook page since 2008 we have only just delved into the world of advertising, selecting our annual "Blessing of Backpacks and Teachers" event this year as the pilot project.

For a total spent of what turned out to be just \$127.62 Trinity Episcopal Church was quickly in front of a targeted audience of between 5,000 and 10,000 Facebook users per day. Of that group, we had 71 unique users click on our Ad, which diverted them to Trinity's event page. The ultimate testimony has been our identification of at least one family who has attended Trinity regularly since signing in at our Facebook event page during the advertising campaign.

The Blessing of Backpacks and Teachers event was held on Sunday, August 26th and we began the Facebook Ad on August 14th. Since advertising is the core of Facebook's revenue stream they have made the process of creating the advertisement very straightforward. Clicking on our advertisement would lead people directly to Trinity's Facebook event page, where all the details for the services were explained. Visitors to our event page could also sign up to attend or ask questions.

The key to any advertisement is targeting it to the right audience. Again, Facebook guides you through the process. Geographically, we wanted to limit our advertisement to those located within 25 miles of The Woodlands, which instantly yielded a potential audience of over 280,000 Facebook users. By comparison, a large regional newspaper recently indicated to us that they have an online distribution of only 250,000 for the entire Greater Houston area. The potential reach of social media cannot be understated!

To further target our advertisement to the right audience, we narrowed the search by users' precise interests. This is a search capability offered by Facebook that pulls information from users' stated interests, activities, posts and group memberships. In our case we were aiming the advertisement at teachers and parents of school age children, so we used keywords such as teacher, high, middle and elementary school, college, Conroe or Magnolia ISD, or the specific phrase 'back to school'. Most importantly, we regarded this project purely as an evangelism tool so we purposely did not target members or current affiliates of Trinity.

It was not just our Facebook presence that increased during the time of the advertisement project. Trinity's website experienced a 17% increase in first-time visits. There were many new faces in the pews on the big day and attendance exceeded 600 for the third time this year.

The Blessing of the Backpacks Facebook advertisement was an experiment in evangelism that yielded real results for very little time or monetary investment. We have made the decision not to keep a running Facebook advertisement for Trinity to avoid the Ad becoming tiresome. We will instead continue to experiment with targeted advertising of 'non-threatening' Church events, or in other words those events which appeal to the wider community and will serve as an introduction to Trinity and to the Episcopal Church.

Nick Earl, New Member Ministry



OUTREACH

Are Prisons Obsolete?

Several years ago I was invited to attend a weekend pray period for a group of prisoners at the Walls unit in Huntsville, TX. A good friend of mine had been working in a prison ministry named "Kairos." I have always been intrigued by the dynamics of prison life so visiting on that weekend was a chance for me to see firsthand hardened criminals. At least that was my thought.

Entering and being searched for the first time for contraband was nerve racking, but not near as final, as the prison door closing behind you, as you enter the main building. I thought to myself "what if they find something in my past that I am not aware of and they don't let me back out;" I shuddered with fear.

My friend seemed perfectly relaxed and I thought too much so. I was given a short lesson on "no-no's" before meeting the men, such as no notes to take outside, no offers of help, no criticism of the prison administration, etc. I also needed to be careful about bodily contact; that was one thing they really did not have to worry about. I could barely bring myself to a handshake.

We walked into a huge chapel that housed about a hundred inmates. There was a full band in the chapel sanctuary playing old gospel songs, and men singing at the top of their voices. The scene was electric with sound and emotion as they moved from one song to another. It did not take me long to chime in with my best baritone and I was caught up in the energy and the wonderful sound shaking the chapel. The musicians were obvious pros who were able to ply their trade and they were enjoying every minute as they played.

The men broke up into small groups after hearing a gospel message delivered by one of their own in a preaching manner I had not heard in years. The preacher knew his subject by heart; he delivered his message with authority, amens resounding throughout the Nave. I was invited to join a small group and in listening to these gentlemen share it dawned on me they had a better relationship with Jesus than I did. Either that they were the best group of con men I had ever met.

When my friend and I left that day I felt renewed, a faith on fire. How could these men develop such a quality of belief in a place that was absolutely non-supportive of being a believer? I absolutely had to know more. I must go deeper;

that decision six years ago has brought me many very special spiritual gifts, some heartbreak, and knowledge of prisons that I must share with others. We are building a prison system that is making our country extremely unsafe. The system is resulting in the exact opposite of what it was designed to do; it is turning ordinary citizens into crooks that can only survive in our economy by a life of crime. There is a cadre of people (men and women) who have accepted the fact they are headed to prison, not if, but when.

In 2003 we had over two million people in prisons across the USA. In 1960 there were only 200,000. Today's count is close to 2.5 million. There are a total of about 9 million people in the world that are incarcerated; we have over two million of that total locked up in our country. In other words we are locking more than one out of three, compared to the world population of prisoners. Why are we not asking questions why? Our daily cost of housing a prisoner in a state facility here in Texas is a little over \$50.00 per day, if it is a privately owned facility, "they" say about \$37.00 per day. We have approximately 170,000 locked up in Texas costing us \$600,000 to \$ 700,000 dollars per day. The justice community is more expensive than our national defense.

We are less than five percent of the world's total population yet our locked up represent more than twenty percent of the world's penal population. Do you think we are smarter than anyone else? Do you think that our streets are really safer because of the amount of men and women incarcerated today? Short of major wars, mass incarceration has been the most thoroughly implemented government social program of our time.

In the 1980's, during the Reagan era, politicians argued that "tough on crime" stances including certain imprisonment, and longer sentences-would keep communities free of crime. Each new prison spawned another new prison. And as prison systems expanded so did corporate involvement in construction, provisions of goods and services, and use of prison labor. In California it took 100 years to build the first nine prisons. In less than a decade the prisons doubled in number and size. There are now thirty-three prisons, thirty eight camps, sixteen community correction facilities, and five tiny prisoner mother facilities in California.

OUTREACH

In Texas, currently there are 47 prisons, 15 state jails, 13 transfer facilities, 2 medical facilities, 4 pre-release facilities, 5 substance abuse, 7 private prisons, 5 private jails, 4 parole confinement facilities, 3 psychiatric, 1 geriatric, and 1 mentally retarded facility. That totals nearly 100 state, or state optioned to private business, correction facilities in Texas. The bulk of the prisons have been built since 1980.

The demographics of prison population are fairly balanced between black, latino and white. Yet remember the population is not that balanced. There is a very inordinate amount of blacks being sentenced to jail time. This is so critical that most of the black youth do not consider prison an avoidable scenario. Most black youth think I will be going sometime, it just a matter of when. There are 803,000 blacks incarcerated in the USA. That's 118,000 more than the total number of whites. The ratio of blacks to prison is now one in three, and black women have the highest increase with a 78% jump in confinement.

Prisons are located on devalued rural land, most in fact on formerly irrigated agricultural acres. The state bought land sold by large landowners, and the state assured the small depressed communities now shadowed by prisons that the new, recession proof, non polluting industry would jump-start local development. If you visit those communities today, it is very apparent this promise failed to take root.

People tend to take prisons for granted. It is difficult to imagine life without them. At the same time it is hard to face the realities hidden within them, a fear of thinking about what happens within them. Thus the prison is present in our lives, and at the same time, it is absent from our lives.

How can we prevent further expansion of the prison population? How can we bring as many imprisoned men and women back to the "free world?" How can we move to decriminalize drug use, How can we take seriously strategies of restorative justice rather than punitive justice? We must discover a new way; we must learn to take care of and educate the children from poor communities so they can break the bonds of poverty. Can we ensure that prisons no longer should be our social anchor?

Robert Lowry, Deacon



The Fifth Annual Angel Gift Market

The Fifth Annual Angel Gift Market will be held in Butler Hall Saturday, December 1st from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM and Sunday, December 2nd from 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM.

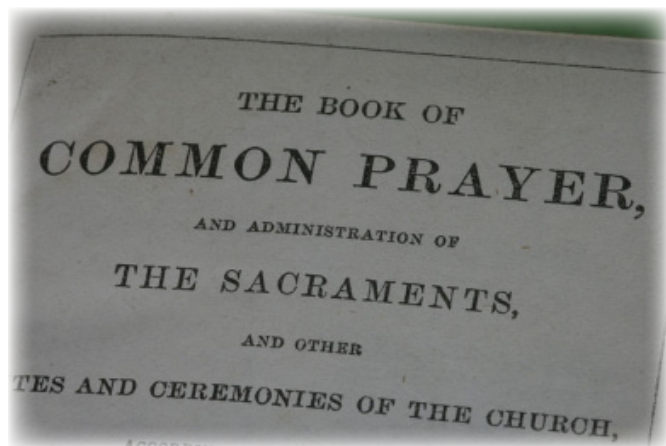
This year, our very talented and artistic members from Trinity have decorated three and four foot table-top trees in a variety of styles. These trees will be in a silent auction starting Saturday, December 1st and ending Sunday, December 9th at 12:30 PM. These donations will go to the General Outreach Fund which supports all Trinity Outreach Ministries.

Again this year, each Outreach Ministry will be represented at the Market, and will have our Angel gift certificates which make excellent Christmas presents for family, friends, and business associates.

Saturday, lunch prepared by the Moms' Devotional Group along with Betsy Batey and friends will be served from 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM. Please RSVP by November 26th by calling the Trinity office at 281-367-8113. Love donations are encouraged.

This is the official annual fundraiser for our Outreach Ministries. Please come by and help support Conroe Soup Kitchen, Kids Hope, Kairos, Spirit Lake Nation, Montgomery County Jail, Veggie Village, Family Promise, and LOTS (Lord of the Streets). Proceeds to the general fund also help those in need in our community. All donations are tax deductible, including winning bids for the Christmas trees.

WORSHIP



Instructed Holy Eucharist

An Instructed Holy Eucharist service has been scheduled for Sunday, January 27, 2013 at all four services, 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

Fr. Gerry

Choices

We make choices all the time. When and what to eat, what to wear, and what will take up our time.

As the school year begins many of us are finding that weekend school events are a new or renewed reality. We are up late at football games, up early on Sunday for other sport events. We drive from one practice to another. This is not just the parents life, but is also what many grandparents do.

It makes me tired even thinking about it.

I want to remind you of the 5:00 PM Sunday service. It is a quieter, simpler service - just right for those who get home in the early morning hours after a Saturday event and need a later service.

It is also a good service for those who have to work Sunday mornings.

For we who follow Jesus Christ, Sunday is a day surrendered to God and the day we honor Christ in word and Sacrament. Let us remember to gather on Sundays as the past generations have done.

We are blessed with so many opportunities for worship. Two Holy Eucharists on Wednesday and four on Sunday. Each of us should be able to attend at least one of those each week.

Peace, Father Gerry+

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2012

7:00 PM

Bring home a loaf of blessed bread for your family dinner on Thursday.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2012

5:00 PM • The No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant

8:00 PM • Rite II Eucharist Candlelight • No Incense

11:00 PM • Rite II Eucharist Candlelight • Incense

CHRISTMAS DAY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2012

10:30 AM • Rite II

Blessing of the toys following the service.

WORSHIP

The Longest Night

The Longest Night

A Christmastime Service for those Grieving a Loss

Friday, December 21, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church, The Woodlands

This Holy Eucharist is held on the date of the winter solstice, literally our longest night. All are invited, but it is offered particularly for those who are grieving a loss, whoever or whatever that loss may be. Special prayers, music, unction (anointing with holy oil), and holy communion make up this 75 minute service.

The whole sweep of the holiday season, from Thanksgiving to New Years' Day, can be a difficult time for those in grief. Messages all around us tell us we should be happy, and that can cause us to feel alone. In The Longest Night service, we acknowledge the reality and pain of loss, but also hold fast to the sure and certain hope of the coming Christ light.

Join us and invite a friend for whom this may be an important and healing experience this Christmastime. Questions? Call Mtr. Genevieve Razim or Sheila Gerth in the church office: 281.367.8113.



We Await His Coming in Glory

The Daughters of the King are hosting an Advent Quiet Day, Saturday, December 8, 2012 in the library from 9 am to noon. Take a break from the bustle of Christmas shopping. All are invited.

As we say in Eucharistic Prayer B:

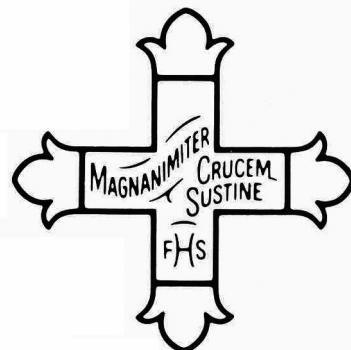
*We remember his death, (Lent)
We proclaim his resurrection, (Eastertide)
We await his coming in glory. (Advent)*

*So Advent is a time of waiting.
We are waiting, how does one wait, what do you do?
He is coming in glory, what will that be like?*

The scriptures assigned for the first Sunday of Advent use words that translate to "coming". It is not an ordinary word at all; it is Coming with a capital C, the word used to describe the Second Coming! Coming in Glory, with a capital G, the word used to describe the Glory of the LORD! We will try to visualize it for ourselves through glimpses provided in the Bible.

Waiting isn't so difficult when it is worth it, when you are waiting for something that is marvelous and spectacular, but sometimes you wait while doing internal activities (prayer and contemplation) and sometimes you wait while doing external activities (acts of charity and service). We will explore both through the "marching orders" provided through the words of the Bible.

The Quiet Day will be led by **Beth Hebert**, a Daughter of the King and graduate of the Diocese of Texas Formation IN Direction (FIND) program. Please come and bring a friend!



STEWARDSHIP



As members of Trinity, we provide support in the forms of time, talent, and treasure. At the end of August, Rally Day highlighted the giving of our time/talent to the many missions of Trinity. Now is the season focused on providing support to God's church by giving a portion of our treasure.

On each Sunday during the financial campaign, we hear from others who share their process of discernment, and we receive letters to further encourage us.

Our theme this year is "Come Walk with Me". This theme is inspired by the many Bible stories of transformation during walks, short and long. One of several Bible passages illustrating this is the story of Jesus' walk to Emmaus found in Luke's Gospel. After hearing of the empty tomb, two disciples were walking to Emmaus when Jesus joined them. But they did not recognize him. They invited him to eat with them and it was as he broke bread that they recognized him. Is this the experience we have as Jesus walks with us? Do we have "aha" moments when we see his presence? How has the church walked with you?

After prayerfully considering your commitment of support to Trinity, return your card and we will celebrate the offering of our gifts at our "ingathering" on Sunday, November 18. If you miss this date, please don't be shy, just place your card in offertory plate on any Sunday.

On the same day Jesus walked with his disciples to Emmaus, Jesus also appeared to his disciples in Jerusalem, and as he said to them, we say to you, "Peace be with you".

Joan Blair

OUR PURPOSE AS A CHURCH IS
TO WALK THE WAY OF GRACE AND
SALVATION WITH EACH OTHER IN LOVE
AND FAITH. WE WALK TOGETHER IN
EACH OTHER'S PAIN AND JOY. WE WALK
TOGETHER INTO OUR FUTURE. OUR
SPIRITUAL WALK IS ACTED ON IN OUR
LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP -
TIME, TALENT, AND FINANCIAL!

Ingathering Sunday Sunday, November 18, 2012

*Offering our commitment cards to God
at the Altar, seeking God's blessing on
our financial offerings.*

TRINITY EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL



We have had two great months here at Trinity Episcopal Day School with our eleventh year in full swing! We have 22 staff employed and 100 children enrolled.

The fall season has been delightful - October brought TEDS Fest, Pumpkin Days and school pictures.

November will be highlighted with parent-teacher conferences, Scholastic Book Fair, the Thanksgiving class feasts and hearing/vision testing for 4's and Kindergarten. Whew!! As we move into December, our focus will be directed toward the holiday season and the Chapel story of Jesus' birth. We'll sing Christmas carols for the seniors and create ornaments for our families and the Angel Gift Market.

All the while, the teaching staff is implementing classroom activities that range from making handprint Santas with the 18 month olds to a study of the senses in the 4's. The two year olds have begun their units on opposites: big/small, hard/soft, night/day, warm/cold. The 3's themes include transportation, quilts, spiders and bats, apples and Advent. Our 4's moved from farm and fall to a study of the human body. They have created word walls with at least 12 beginning letter sounds and have begun preliminary math activities. The Explorer 4 year old class has been to Australia and China, with India and the North and South Poles coming up. Kindergarten students are creating classroom books, writing descriptive phrases, reading as a group and individually and are mastering counting coins!

Molly Carr and the clerical staff, along with Carol Black and Terri Simpson have created Chapel experiences full of meaning and joy. We are blessed to have so many who are willing to spend part of their morning with the TEDS kids. Our outreach Chapel donations have included bottled water, PB & J, "Thanksgiving" food and baby items such as diapers and wipes. The generosity of our families has been greatly appreciated.

Our Parents' Association sponsored Skeeter's Night on October 30 and the poinsettia fund-raiser. Watch for notices of your opportunity to order these beautiful flowers on Sundays in November. The association will also staff the Scholastic Book Fair. The members of this parent group volunteer for many classroom tasks.

The TEDS School Board was also very busy in October with TEDS Fest, their fall "fun"-raiser. We hope you were able to join in the fun. Many thanks to **Claudia Grow**, chair of the Resource Committee, and to all who helped create a memorable day. The Long-Range Planning Committee is also actively meeting to formulate plans for the next few years in the life of your school, including growth potential and staff development. They will also be active in producing the next report milestone in our accreditation review for The Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools.

Special thanks to **Melanie Sheffield** and **Joanne Welker** for their determined efforts to help our classrooms get back to normal after the summer floods and leaks! We owe them a great debt (and probably some chocolate!).

We still have a few openings in the two day 3's and four day 4's. If you would like to know more about TEDS, please call the school office (281.367.5148), e-mail at dbremer@tedstw.org or check out our website, tedstw.org. We would love to give you a tour!

Carol Godell, Director



Parish Life Ministry

As we head to the end of 2012 I am taking time to reflect on the programs at Trinity Kids Corner. Each year our programs grow and increase in size and that is thanks to all the staff, parents, and Trinity folks that keep supporting and believing in our ministry. Thank you so much for your continual support.

*-Liz Johnson
Kids Corner Coordinator*

TRINITY KIDS CORNER NEWS

SHOP AND DROP DAYS

Join us on December 1st and December 15th for Shop and Drop days. The times are 9am-2pm and the cost is \$25.00 per child/per day or \$40 per family/per day. Infants to age 12 are invited. Snack and fun times are provided. Please pack a sack lunch for your child. For questions or to RSVP please contact Liz Johnson at the church office or ljohnson@trinitywoodlands.org.

PJ DAYS (PRAISE JESUS DAYS)

Get ready for a snuggly good time! Have your children come dressed in their PJs and prepared for FUN! Snack and tons of fun provided! Infants up to age 12 are invited. Please pack a sack lunch for your child. Dates are December 27th, 28th, January 3rd and 4th. The times are 9am-2pm and the cost is \$25.00 per child/per day or \$40 per family/per day. For questions or to RSVP please contact Liz Johnson at the church office or ljohnson@trinitywoodlands.org.



The Mom's Devotional Group led by Molly Carr meets at the church on Monday mornings starting at 9:30AM. Childcare is free and provided by Trinity Kids Corner.

Tell your husband: Trinity Guys in Fellowship (TGIF) is a group at Trinity that gathers once a month for fun and fellowship. If you would like more information on this group please contact Jason Johnson at jjohnson@rjagroup.com.



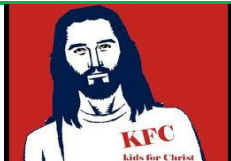
TEENS IN TRAINING

GREAT JOB VOLUNTEERING AT TEDS FEST and AT OUR BAKE SALE!! WHAT SUCCESSFUL EVENTS!! THE MONEY RAISED AT OUR BAKE SALE WILL PROVIDE FUNDS FOR OUR SUMMER MISSION TRIP.

Join us for Ice Skating on January 13th from 2-4PM in the Town Center Rink.

Parish Life Ministry

PARISH LIFE EVENTS



KIDS FOR CHRIST KFC 1ST-3RD YOUTH GROUP
Kids in the 1st-3rd grade and parents are welcome to join us for a movie afternoon on **Sunday, November 11th** from 1:30-3:30PM.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Our annual Thanksgiving Service will be held on **Wednesday, November 21st** at 7PM. Childcare is provided. Bring home a loaf of blessed bread for your family dinner on Thursday.

ALL SAINTS
DAY



They will receive life from the Father, and vindication from the Son, at their resurrection. (1 John 5:1)

ALL SAINTS DAY CELEBRATION
Please join us in Butler Hall on **Sunday, November 4th** from 10:15-10:55AM as we celebrate All Saints Day!



SAINT NICHOLAS DAY CELEBRATION
Jolly Saint Nick will join us on **Sunday, December 9th** from 10:15-10:55AM in Butler Hall.



PARISH LIFE HAYRIDE
Join us on **Saturday, December 7th** from 6:45-8:45PM as we sing, play and enjoy a hayride together at The Old Time Christmas Tree Farm.

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

The camels are coming!! **Sunday, January 6th** from 10:15-10:55AM in the Courtyard.



Junior and Senior High YOUTH:
Community Groups Sunday's from 6:15-8:30pm
in Butler Hall-come hungry!

Junior and Senior High YOUTH:
The Gospel of Luke, Wednesday's from 7-8:00PM @ the Panther Creek Starbucks



conspire

CONSPIRE JR & SR YOUTH CONFERENCE

Junior and Senior High Youth are invited to the Conspire Youth Conference at St. Martins in Houston November 30th-December 2nd. Bishop Doyle and Donald Miller will be speaking. Cost is \$45 per person which includes food, housing and a t-shirt. Contact Molly Carr for more information.

2ND SATURDAY FOR YOUTH

Junior and Senior High Youth join us for movie night on November 10th. Time and movie are to be determined. Cost is \$10. Save the date! See Molly Carr for more information.

No Children's, TNT or Youth
Sunday School on December 16th, 23^d and 30th.

Look for Advent materials
coming soon to the Narthex.

Look for details on Los Posada in
the Weekly Tidings.

PARISH LIFE - A SPECIAL NOTE

November, 2012

Dear Church Family,

I would like to share with you a little about the sabbatical that I will be taking at the end of this year. After speaking with my spiritual director, and with Fr. Gerry+ we came to the conclusion that I need some time to rest, renew and retool for the upcoming season in our ministry together.

The idea of sabbatical comes from the biblical idea of Sabbath, which involves rest, worship, play and reflection. The Israelites were commanded to let the ground lie fallow every seven years so that it may again become fertile and produce good fruit. Jesus himself retreated for deliberate periods of time in order that he may more fully understand his ministry and draw closer to God. This idea has been followed by church leaders, academics, and is gaining a following in the business world.

This season of disengagement is not a vacation for Ursula and me, but rather an intentional and deliberate time for rest, repair, restoration and refreshing. I will be taking off for eight weeks, from November 7- January 8. During the time that I will be absent I will be:

- Attending a retreat at Camp Allen
- Attending a training program for Youth Ministry Development
- Resting
- Going to the National Youth Workers' Conference
- Spending time with my GirlChild and family
- Going to the Conspire Conference
- Being with my Marianist Family in Temple and Fort Worth
- Catching up on the classes I am taking for a Masters Degree in Religious Education.
- Attending other churches to glean ideas to bring back to Trinity
- Resting

Many have asked how they can help. Mostly, we covet your prayers for us during this time. I also know that there are activities and programs that are going on and they will need help staffing, chaperoning, driving, set up and clean up. You can contact Liz Linger in the church office if you have some free time and would like to pitch in.

Please know how much I love Trinity Episcopal Church. I consider you all family. I do not take this time lightly, but see it as a gift from this congregation, and from God. I will see y'all in January!

*Be God's!
Molly*



St. Anne's Guild

Our September meeting was very entertaining as Trinity's own professional clown Vern King known as Pogo gave us an inside look into the life of a clown including putting on his "face" while telling about clowning.

In October we enjoyed **Debbie Sukin**, CEO of St. Luke's Hospital and Lakeside Hospital. She is a very accomplished lady and we enjoyed having her share her knowledge with us.

St. Anne's November 11th Meeting

Please make a note that the November meeting will be the second Tuesday due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. As usual our meeting will begin at 11:30 AM. Please bring a sandwich. Our hostesses will provide sides, drinks and dessert. We will have our own **Kay Sevick** as our speaker. Kay leads an interesting life so her speech will no doubt be Exceptional.

St. Anne's December 11th Meeting

The St. Anne's member's Christmas Luncheon will be the second Tuesday due to the Christmas Holiday. Details will be given at our November meeting.

If you would like more information about St. Anne's Guild contact **Judy Rutledge**, 281.465.4320.

Susan Darby • tmadam007@aol.com

Prime Time Guys

The Prime Time Guys is a group of retired men of Trinity who normally meet in the Wesley Room on the third Monday of each month. The meetings include fellowship, noonday prayer, lunch and a guest speaker. We support the Interfaith Food Pantry by delivering food donations made by church members. Please bring all food donations to church and place them in the food cart in the Narthex.

Our speaker for November 19, 2012 will be **LTC John Bradley**, former professor of military history at West Point. His presentation will be about D-Day. We would like to invite all veterans of the parish and their friends to join us for this Veterans Day celebration. On December 17, 2013 we will have our annual Christmas luncheon with wives and guests.

Verlin Hodges 281-320-9690 or vchodges@comcast.net

Daughters of the King

A special thank you to Father Gerry for a wonderful service to kick off another great year in D.O.K. This year we, as Daughters, will be donating items each month to different organizations/groups who are in need of assistance.

Also during this year we will be exploring a book by James Earley, *The 21 Most Effective Prayers of the Bible*. We plan to cover three chapters each time we meet.

In our November meeting we will be decorating Christmas bags to hold the toiletries collected during the month for The Women's Center. Our annual clothes drive will take place in November too.

On December 8th we look forward to our Quiet Day led by Beth Hebert who is a Daughter of the King and graduate of the Diocese of Texas Formation IN Direction (FIND) program. After the Quiet Day from 9:00-12:00 we will enjoy our Christmas luncheon in the Wesley room. We will be bringing a toy for the Interfaith Center ~ our charity for December.

Any woman who is interested in Daughters of the King should contact Delores Spafford at 281-363-9370 or the church office at 281-367-8113.

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Matthew 7:7

Fran Zachry

Usher Team

The Trinity Usher Team is looking for women and men who would like to join this very important ministry...especially for the 9:00 AM service. Teams are assigned one week per month for the 9:00 AM and the 11:00 AM Sunday services and at one or two Holy Day services during the year. You work with a team captain and 4-6 other team members. The time commitment is very small, about one hour per month, and you get to meet, visit and help serve other Trinity members as they arrive for the service. Besides a thorough customary, your team captain and fellow team members will help you learn the key duties. Becoming an usher is an easy way to contribute your time to the Trinity stewardship ministry. Please consider joining this special ministry. Contact Mike Thomson, 281.298.1109 to join.

Mike Thomson • 281.298.1109

AROUND THE PARISH

Trinity Tennisers (TT)

The TTs have played seven matches since being established in April of this year. So far twenty five (25) different players have participated in our matches. Additional matches will be played throughout this year on November 4th and December 2nd. The eight players who played in 50 degree temperatures on October 7th are shown below. For those who wish to join TT or desire additional information, please contact Lynwood Randolph at LRANDOLPH@SBCGLOBAL.NET or 281.356.2030.

Lynwood Randolph • LRandolph@sbcglobal.net • 281.356.2030



AROUND THE PARISH



Purls and Prayers

Purls and Prayers announce new leadership. Our faithful leader **Louise Webster** has stepped down and turned over the leadership to **Sandie Cummins**.

The steps we all traverse in any knitting project have an element of spirituality and a sprinkling of the sacred when we are casting on, making the different stitches and weaving ends. Just ask the knitters above: **Harriett**, incoming leader **Sandie**, **Carol**, **Anne**, and outgoing leader **Louise**.

We thank all individuals and families who have donated many, many skeins of yarns. The skeins pictured above were donated by the **Jackie Campbell Family**.

She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.

Proverbs 31:22

Thank You

Thank you to our Trinity family for the prayers, altar flowers, and delicious food furing my recovery from the second round of foot surgery. God is good....all the time!

San and Jack West



The Junior Usher Ministry at Trinity Episcopal Church has served four times this year on January 29th, April 29, July 29th and September 30th. The current team members include eleven young ladies and twelve young men. Family participation is very important as the attached pictures show two families that served on September 30th. Junior Usher Teams 9 and 11 will serve again on December 30, 2012. If you wish learn more about Junior Ushers or to join our teams, please contact Lynwood P. Randolph at the email address (lrandolph@sbcglobal.net) or 281.356.2030.

Lynwood Randolph



Michael Burbach, Allison Burbach and their friend Mackenzie



Kathleen Conrad and daughters, Sarah and Rachel

AROUND THE PARISH

Trinity Women's Book Club

Come join the Trinity Women's Book Club! We are open to all women in the church, and your friends are welcome as well. We meet on the 4th Monday of each month at 7 PM in the Parlor. While enjoying tasty beverages and snacks, we informally discuss the assigned book and enjoy each other's company. We read a variety of genres, including fiction, non-fiction, contemporary and classical, biographical, spiritual, and even poetry! There is something for everyone who loves to read, and we have a number of former literature majors who provide knowledge and insight to our discussions. Our next few meetings are October 22 and November 26, 2012. And we are going to Amerigos for our annual Christmas luncheon in December in lieu of our normal meeting. The exact date and time are yet to be determined.

This summer Trinity Women's Book Club took a field trip to see the delightful Painted Churches of Schulenburg. We had an excellent tour guide who shared the early history of this part of Texas and framed the origin of these prairie-stranded architectural jewels. It was fun to travel together and have plenty of time to chat.

In August, the Book Club read *Isaac's Storm* by Erik Larson. This was a timely read. The author reprised the great hurricane of 1900 which decimated much of Galveston from the perspective of the meteorologists who missed the warning signs of impending doom. It was a gentle reminder that even with 'state of the art' talent and instruments, nature can deliver 'outside the known bounds' and unprecedented chaos.

The September reading, *Destiny of the Republic* by Candice Millard, was also timely as we revisited the contentious campaigning and election of President Garfield running against former President Grant's third-term attempt. This book focused on the shooting of President Garfield and the poor state of medical knowledge that essentially brought on his unnecessary death many months afterwards.

On October 22, we will be discussing *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather. This work was published in 1927 and concerns the attempts of a Catholic bishop and a priest to establish a diocese in New Mexico Territory.

Barbara Leary • 281-682-7900.



CONNECTION'S DINNERS

- Would you like to meet our clergy and staff in an informal and relaxed environment?
- Are you new to the area, new to the church, returning after a temporary absence?
- Do you want to learn more about the ministries of Trinity Episcopal Church?

If you answered yes or maybe to any of these questions, then this is

Your place to belong and grow!

The dress is casual, the crowd is friendly and the food is always delicious!

If this is your first time to attend one of our dinners as a newcomer,
We ask that you simply bring yourself!

Soup and Salad



Trinity Episcopal Church
extends an open invitation for you to the
JANUARY NEWCOMERS' DINNER
Sunday, January 20, 2013, 6:30 pm at the home of

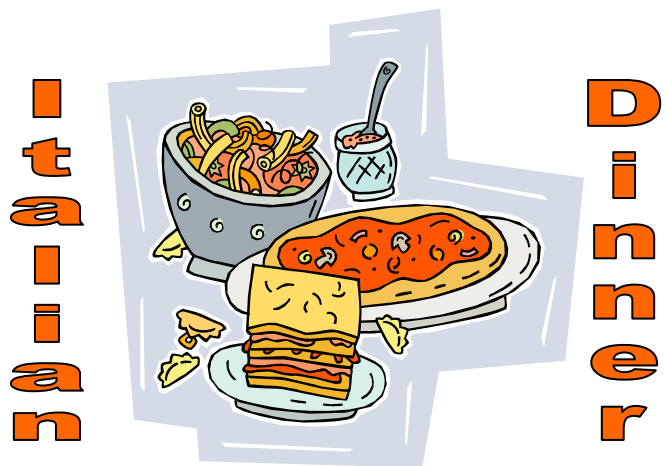
Jack and San West
42 Golden Shadow Circle
The Woodlands, TX 77381

This month's theme is soup and salad. Please, bring your favorite soup or salad. So that we will be sure to have enough food and to coordinate the menu, please R.S.V.P. to Beverly Redd at 610.304.6630 or bevredd@gmail.com or Randy Redd at 832.494.8321 or ranredd@gmail.com. Childcare is available at the church upon request. Please call the church at 281-367-8113 to make a reservation for your child/children.

Trinity Episcopal Church
extends an open invitation for you to the
FEBRUARY NEWCOMERS' DINNER
Sunday, February 17, 2013, 6:30 pm at the home of

Bob and Tracy Atkins
6510 Pine Reserve
The Woodlands, TX 77389

This month's theme is Italian. Please, bring your favorite Italian dish. So that we will be sure to have enough food and to coordinate the menu, please R.S.V.P. to Beverly Redd at 610.304.6630 or bevredd@gmail.com, or contact the church office. Childcare is available at the church upon request. Please call the church at 281.367.8113 to make a reservation for your child/children.



VESTRY

At the beginning of the year the Vestry identified five areas where we would focus our efforts:

- Communications
- New Member Incorporation
- Improved Consistency in Giving
- Development of Lay Leaders
- Setting the Stage for Further Growth

There has been much progress in these areas, and we are not finished with our work in any of them. This Vestry's term ends in January, but we can already see some of the opportunities and challenges that we will face in the coming year.

The main driver of all of these is our rapid membership growth, with average Sunday attendance now over 500 people. That makes us one of the largest parishes in the country, and has opened up opportunities for ministries, worship, fellowship, and personal growth that we didn't have before. The new groups that have formed and the continued strong attendance at our newcomer's events is proof that we are offering both spiritual and physical comfort to the wider Woodlands community. But the growth also drives the need for change in other areas:

Our parish management, the clergy, staff, and dedicated volunteers who make things happen are increasingly strained by the scale of our operation. The wrong answer is to limit growth or reduce our ministries, because a parish exists to serve everyone who needs us. The right answer is to increase involvement and carefully add staff to make sure our services are organized, events are planned, meetings are held, bills are paid, and our facilities are maintained. Much of this work now falls on a small number of lay parish leaders who are giving all they can so the needs of us all are met. We will need to increase our staff and broaden our pool of lay leaders or we will not be able to meet the needs of the community and our fellow parishioners.

Our strategy to conserve our available funds has been to reduce facility maintenance to a bare minimum, limit salary increases for staff and clergy, and generally patch it rather than fix it. This will not work anymore, as our infrastructure requires over \$50,000 of significant repair or replacement in the next year to maintain safe operation. Our air conditioning systems are over 30 years old and some have reached the point they cannot be economically repaired; we will likely

have to repave our parking lot in 2013, which we share with The Woodlands township; and we anticipate significant roof and drywall repair to Butler Hall and the Atrium Building. Joanne Welker, our Junior Warden, has worked tirelessly to deal with the issues of flooding, termites, and drainage that have appeared this year, but will need our help in time and money in the next year as the challenges promise to be equally large.

The consistency of giving and level of commitment to financial stewardship has improved, which allows creation of much more accurate budgets and eliminates the need for management of cash crises. We came through the summer without the usual precipitous drop in revenue, and are approximately on budget for the year. This is something we should be proud of, but need to maintain this focus in order to achieve all we want to.

Our growth in people will, inevitably, result in a need for more space. Our day school is approaching its capacity and our community outreach programs (Cornerstone, ESL, etc.) are filling the Atrium most nights of the week. This is something that won't be fixed in a year or even two, but we have begun the process to define what we will need to support our parish for the next 30 years.

It is exciting to be a part of a community that is growing both physically and spiritually, and I think we all want to maintain our momentum. Please consider how you can help contribute to this growth, even in a small way, as it will make a difference to our parish and our community.

Randall Redd, Senior Warden

Vestry and Diocesan Council Delegates

The parish held their annual vestry and Diocesan Council elections Sunday, October 14.

Vestry members for the class of 2016 are:

Stoney Cox
David Marshall
Michael Thomson
Jack West

Delegates for Diocesan Council are:

Kathleen Merchant	Walter Browning
John Miller	Roger Sykes

FINANCIALS

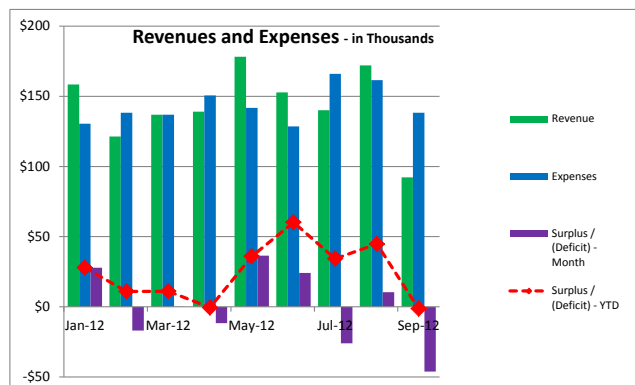
As we conclude the Summer months and enter into Fall, Trinity's financial results reflect a year-to-date deficit of \$1 thousand. Contributions slumped during August and September to the lowest level of the year. Although we recovered some of the costs via insurance proceeds, overall expenses were higher due to repairs and maintenance of our facilities. This resulted in the need to draw from our line of credit which now stands at about \$52 thousand.

As we enter the final 3 months of 2012, the Vestry asks that you help Trinity to a strong finish this year. If contributions are comparable to the amounts given in the last 3 months of 2011, then I am confident we will be in a position to pay down the line of credit and establish a strong starting point as we enter 2013.

Should you have specific questions or feedback about the financials, please feel free to contact me by email at TStavins@comcast.net or find me in Butler Hall during the Sunday coffee hour.

Tony Stavins, Treasurer • TStavins@comcast.net

Year to Date	2012 Jan.	2012 Feb.	2012 March	2012 April	2012 May	2012 June
Revenue	\$ 158.4	\$ 121.4	\$ 136.9	\$ 139.0	\$ 178.2	\$ 152.7
Expenses	\$ 130.5	\$ 138.3	\$ 136.8	\$ 150.6	\$ 141.7	\$ 128.5
Revenue Surplus/(Deficit) - Mth	\$ 27.9	\$ (16.9)	\$ 100	\$ (11.6)	\$ 36.5	\$ 24.2
Revenue Surplus/(Deficit) - YTD	\$ 27.9	\$ 11.0	\$ 11.1	\$ 500	\$ 36.0	\$ 60.2
Year to Date	2012 July	2012 Aug.	2012 Sept.	2012 Oct.	2012 Nov.	2012 Dec.
Revenue	\$ 140.1	\$ 172.0	\$ 92.2			
Expenses	\$ 166.0	\$ 161.5	\$ 138.3			
Revenue Surplus/(Deficit) - Mth	\$ (25.9)	\$ 10.5	\$ (46.1)			
Revenue Surplus/(Deficit) - YTD	\$ 34.3	\$ 44.8	\$ (1.3)			



Trinity Episcopal Church
3901 S. Panther Creek Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77381
Office Phone: 281.367.8113 • Office Fax 281.296.2201
Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday - Friday
Visit our web site at www.trinitywoodlands.org

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Worship with Us at
Trinity Episcopal Church

Diocese of Texas

The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Dena A. Harrison, Bishop Suffragan
The Rev. Jeff Fisher, Bishop Suffragan

Trinity Episcopal Church

The Rev. Dr. Gerald Seveck, Rector
The Rev. Genevieve T. Razim, Associate Rector
The Rev. Robert W. Horner, Deacon
The Rev. Robert Lowry, Deacon
The Rev. Sean Steele, Curate
Micki Balog, Choral Director, Handbells
Michael Fisher, Organist
Alyssa Stebbing, Contemporary Music Leader

The Staff

Molly Carr, Parish Life Minister
Liz Linger, Admin. Assistant to Parish Life Ministries
Melanie Sheffield, Admin. Assistant to the Rector
Alyssa Stebbing, Outreach Coordinator for the Parish
Lawrence W. Martz, Parish Accountant
Sheila Gerth, Pastoral Care Coordinator
Carol Godell, Director Day School
Liz Johnson, Trinity Kid's Corner Coordinator
Nick Earl, New Member's Ministry Coordinator

The Vestry

Randall Redd, '13 Sr. Warden
Joanne Welker, '14, Jr. Warden
Tony Stavins, '14 Treasurer
Bob Atkins, Clerk

Charlie Brown '13	John McKinley '15
Tom Budde '15	Kathleen Merchant '13
Doris Cloud '15	John Miller '13
Jim Filkowski '14	Judith Randolph '14
Vicki Hamill '15	

Vergers

Dick Johnson, Head Verger
Martha Martz David Salmon
John McKinley Joanne Welker
Aaron Michaelson

Sunday

Rite I Said Eucharist	7:30 AM
Contemporary Rite II Eucharist	9:00 AM
Children's Liturgy of the Word	
Sunday School for all ages [3 years to Adults]	10:15 AM
Traditional Rite II Eucharist	11:00 AM
Children's Liturgy of the Word	
Rite II Eucharist	5:00 PM

Wednesday

Rite II Eucharist	10:00 AM
Eucharist with Anointing for Healing	7:00 PM

Monday through Friday

Morning Prayer (in Parlor)	10:00 AM
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Our Vision

We believe Jesus Christ calls us to be His true disciples. Trinity chooses to use the unique gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit to become a shining example of God's love to each other and our community.

Our Mission

Grounded in Christ's love and surrendered to the Holy Spirit, we provide a safe and positive environment for spiritual growth of all, to welcome and serve others, to reach out to those in need and to share the Gospel.

