

# The TIDINGS

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

Volume VIII, Number 5  
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## In the beginning.....

Dear Trinitarians,

I begin with the first words of the Bible: "In the beginning..."

I have been thinking a lot about beginnings recently. I love starting over when I have made a mistake. I want to reset a game or a conversation when things go wrong. I want others to forget the blunders I commit and begin again with me.

Our week begins with the gathering of Christians to worship and receive the grace found in word and Sacrament (Sunday – the first day of the week). We begin that day together in prayer.

We begin each day with a personal time of prayer and a morning routine of preparations for the rest of the day.

We are, at present, beginning the school year.

We begin the new Church year with Advent. We begin the calendar year January first.

The desire to "begin again" is a part of human nature. We are excited as we begin new jobs; we commit ourselves to new healthy habits.

The Christian life is the affirmation and the spiritual practice of the "begin anew" reality. Jesus offers us a chance to pick up and seek Him anew. We are offered the opportunity to begin again each time we humbly and honestly confess our sins. We have the opportunity as we begin the day in an act of self-offering to God. We are given the opportunity to begin anew each time we forgive someone.

To begin anew means new opportunities to love and serve. It is an opportunity to see myself and others through the eyes of God. It is not a reset or a do-over. It is a new moment for a new me.

As we begin this new school year, let us become aware of the possibilities for beginnings; with friends and family, with work and school, with Christ and His Church.

Remember the first words in the Bible? "In the beginning"? Well, you know this is not adequate to fully inform the possibility for renewal. The first words must be; "In the beginning, God..."

How will God be in your beginning anew?

*Peace,  
Father Gerry+*

## HORNER'S CORNER

### Who Will Carry The Mat?

I recently heard a reading of this miracle from Mark 2, Jesus healing the paralytic, a most familiar story and this time it has stuck in my mind as I wanted to hear more of the happenings. What a metaphor for being a true friend, going the extra mile to help someone and especially to bring him to Jesus. I reflect on the question "who will carry my mat?"

I found it particularly important in meditating about this in the reaction of Jesus as He gazes upon the four mat carriers and their friend the paralytic, as they made the supreme effort to bring him to the Master. Impressed by their belief Jesus said to the paralytic "Your sins are forgiven." He also said "Get up, pick up your mat and go home."

There are so many more sermons/nuances to this parable that you can study at any time. My main point is that without the **matmen**, their friend never would have gotten to **Jesus**, and perhaps neither would they.

There is such a strong message here that I believe illustrates our roles in our lives/community.

- The healing reveals a man in need, like me.
- I am blessed with good friends who help me to come to Jesus by word and actions.
- Forgiveness and healing come only through Jesus and many times happen because of friends and church community.

This is just a note to thank so many who have expressed love and concern to me and my family concerning my brother's death. This is the joy of being part of such a loving community.

I heartily/prayerfully recommend all of us learn to share our burdens with others. I have experienced such wonderful healing amongst so many as they learn to open their hearts and share cares in a loving way and as they are able. Knowing that many are praying for them is a great healing gift.

## DEACON SEAN



**CROSSWAYS  
INTERNATIONAL**

### Crossways International Bible Study - Deacon Sean

Crossways Bible Study is a two year, 60 unit course that meets Monday nights starting at 7:00 PM on September 10th. Crossways leads people through the biblical narrative and its message from Genesis to Revelation, with an emphasis on lead. This is not a lecture.

Crossways will take you on a guided tour through the "big story" of scripture through discernment and discussion. Each week, students will complete some bible readings and study questions that will then be discussed when we gather.

This study is designed to be an overarching introduction to the themes of the entire scripture and can be either a great way to begin studying the bible, or a fantastic supplement for those who have been doing so already.

*Deacon Sean*

### ★ EDOT Dialog

Sign up for the *Dialog E-News*. Here's the link:  
<http://tinyurl.com/diologenews>

It's that simple. The *Dialog* goes out every Wednesday afternoon.

*EDOT Communications*

## OUTREACH

### Spirit Lake Ministry Trip 2012

Our time in Spirit Lake was richly blessed this year. We held the art camp for the children and youth in Ft. Totten, at one point peaking at about 25 kids. We also had several adults show up throughout the week, interested in the traditional beading and regalia we were making for the youth to be able to walk in the Grand Entry at Powwow. A couple of the elders and other native parishioners have offered their assistance helping to coordinate out trip next year as Deacon Bonnie retired in California.

We also continued with repairs and maintenance on the church, supervised by the outstanding **Mark Curzan**. His leadership has been so appreciated. I think the email we received from Rev. Danny Whitehead, the bi-vocational priest for St. Thomas church, speaks to the gratitude the parish has for our annual visit:

*"Alyssa, the first thing I saw when I drove up to St. Thomas this past Sunday was the bell, then I saw the cross on top, then the beautiful floor in the parish hall and kitchen, and the new cross in the front of the nave. I'm sure I missed something but it's not because EVERYTHING you did is not greatly appreciated. I can't thank your mission group enough for the many improvements you made in such a short period of time. We offered prayers of thanksgiving at our Eucharist this past Sunday and will continue to do so. Please let everyone know how grateful our faith community at St. Thomas is. Peace, Danny"*

From those of us who went to Spirit Lake this year, we want to thank everyone at Trinity who prayed and supported us. Together we are building relationships in Christ, rebuilding trust and creating a little bit of hope for those who face insurmountable difficulties every day. And the double blessing is our own spiritual growth as we do the nitty-gritty work of serving Christ in our brothers and sisters at Spirit Lake. With Christ, all things are possible.

*Alyssa Stebbing*



# OUTREACH



Fifth Annual Angel Gift Market  
presents  
Festival Of Trees

The Fifth Annual Angel Gift Market will be held December 1 and 2, 2012 in Butler Hall. This year will feature 4' and 3 1/2' Christmas trees. Trinitarians are invited to show their creativity!

Volunteers are needed to adopt a tree, decorate, and return it by November 11th to auction at the Gift Market. Stop by the Narthex between services on Sunday, September 30th to pick up your tree. Contact Angela Kratt at [angelakratt@yahoo.com](mailto:angelakratt@yahoo.com) for more information or early pick-up.

## Trinity Episcopal Church 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Art Show

Wine and Cheese Gallery Opening  
Butler Hall  
Friday, September 21, 2012  
6:00-8:00 pm

Art will remain on display  
Saturday, September 22, 2012  
10:00 am-2:00 pm

Sunday, September 23, 2012  
8:30 am-1:30 pm

Watercolor ❁ Oil and Acrylic ❁ Sculpture  
Fiber Art ❁ Woodwork ❁ Ceramics



## OUTREACH

### Greetings from South Africa

Wonderful staff of Trinity Episcopal,

**Y**ou might already know this through Facebook, but I wanted to let you know I made it to South Africa safely. The prayers of support were appreciated!

I would like to say thank you for the support you -along with the entire Trinity community- have offered during this exciting journey. Being able to speak during the Sunday services was a wonderful experience, as was the loving response afterwards. My experience with Trinity, both in preparation for this mission and over the past year in general, was very much a manifestation of Christ's love. Thank you.

Week 2 in South Africa is almost over, and it has been a remarkable journey already. Highlights include meeting a variety of people at the Monastery -guests from South Africa, Argentina, and the U.S-, seeing stunning landscapes, and watching the smiles on students' faces as they gather together at school.

Thank you again for your wonderful support. I hope you all have had a wonderful summer, and that God blesses you richly in the coming year. Feel free to let me know anything I can do to help you in this year! I would be happy to stay in touch. Also, I haven't ruled out visiting Trinity again after this year -I would be happy to do so, if you want :)

Again, thank you very much. May you be drawn ever deeper into the Love of Christ as you continue serving Him.

*In His name,  
Cameron Spoor*



### Kids Hope USA

**W**e are excited to start a new year with Glen Loch Elementary, working with children who need our special gift, our time. Kids Hope USA and Trinity are looking for a select few who have one hour per week, for the school year to mentor a child. No previous experience is required. We will help you along your path. We have training coming soon. Please contact David and Laura Marshall if you are interested, or would just like to hear more about our program.

*David & Laura Marshall 281-296-6757 or [lolamar66@yahoo.com](mailto:lolamar66@yahoo.com)*

### Kairos Weekend

**D**eacon Robert will be attending a Kairos weekend at the Walls unit in Huntsville, TX. over the labor day weekend. Kairos introduces Jesus to some 25,000 inmates across our land each year. Deacon Robert and a team of men will entertain 42 "men in white" for three days. Some have not had any contact with the outside world in years. We ask your prayers for the team and the inmates that will attend this life changing event.



Our Sunday school children are preparing place mats for the guys to use at one meal. We also could use some home baked chocolate chip cookies to be delivered to the church on August 24th by noon if you are so moved. Believe it or not we use 300 dozen cookies during that weekend just as table cookies. Thank God we have some wonderful home bakers!

# TRINITY EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL



Our summer is already over and TEDS is beginning its 11th year as part of Trinity Episcopal Church! Our Kindergarten children began class on August 27th and preschool begins September 4th. The current enrollment is 94; just over 20% of these children are from Trinity families. A few openings remain in several classes and we welcome inquiries. If you are new to Trinity or know of friends or family who have children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years, please get in touch by calling the school office at 281.367.5148 or e-mail at [office@tedstw.org](mailto:office@tedstw.org). Our website, [tedstw.org](http://tedstw.org) provides an overview of the developmental curriculum we offer. TEDS is licensed through the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and is in its fifth year of accreditation by The Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools.

The TEDS staff had a busy summer attending conferences and workshops in preparation for the school year. It's wonderful to see their enthusiasm growing as they begin the new year. Most of our staff has returned to the program and several have taken on new responsibilities. We are looking forward to a full and exciting time with our students and their families. One major change in our staffing this year is **Carol Black's** move from office administration to curriculum specialist. We are happy that she has chosen to remain involved in TEDS, even after 32 years in public education, four years in our 4's classroom and six years in the office!! **Dawn Bremer**, who is also a church member and was a Trinity parent for five years, has taken the administrative assistant's position.

The children will soon be settling into their classrooms and becoming acquainted with each other and their teachers. In addition to learning routines and schedules, participating in Chapel, Spanish and music/movement, they experience a wide variety of curriculum themes and classroom activities. Fall themes include: farm and bees and bears for the little ones. The three's began with "fun books" such as *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and *Put Me in the Zoo* and will

continue on to "color" weeks. Some of the four's started with units on family and friends, and then moved on to focus on pumpkins, apples, spiders and bats. Our Explorer class, whose curriculum leads them around the world, first "trips" were to Australia and China! And the Kindergarteners are already learning sentence rules, the main idea and details of a story, phonograms of all the single letter sounds and have been introduced to place value for ones, and even and odd numbers. They are enhancing their social studies and science curriculum with National Geographic and Weekly Reader magazines.

October will bring our Pumpkin Days activities, photo days, preparation for our first parent/teacher conferences and TEDS Fest, sponsored by the TEDS school board. This great afternoon of food, fun and fellowship takes place on Sunday, October 21st. We hope you'll join us!

We want to offer special thanks to the TEDS school board for mulching the playground before the start of school, the St. Joseph's guys for all their "construction" consultation, the Trinity clergy for greeting parents, blessing backpacks and leading Chapel, and Boy Scout Parker York for his additions to our playground structures!

Carol Godell • Director



## TEDS Fest

Our annual fall festival benefiting Trinity Episcopal Day School is coming up! Mark your calendars for October 21 from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM. Join us in Trinity's Courtyard for

old favorites and new games and novelties. Be the first to claim goodies at our Bake Shoppe. Select pumpkins from our fall patch. Enjoy lunch and treats for the whole family. Watch the weekly bulletin and your email for more information about purchasing advance discount tickets and how you can help. Many volunteers are needed. If you or your group would like to help, please contact Carlin Tedesco [carlin\\_tedesco@yahoo.com](mailto:carlin_tedesco@yahoo.com) • 832.381.8067 or Claudia Grow at [claudiagrow1@yahoo.com](mailto:claudiagrow1@yahoo.com) • 713.498.8153.

## St. Anne's Guild

Summer is over so that brings back St. Anne's monthly meetings in the Wesley Room. Our September meeting will be held September 18th at 11:30 AM. Back by popular demand we will have a POT LUCK LUNCH!! Our surprise speaker will be very interesting and entertaining. You won't want to miss this meeting. You will receive an email with details or you may call our president Judy Rutledge at 281.465.4320.

October 16 we will have Debbie Sukin, CEO of St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital and Lakeside Hospital. Ms. Sukin has a wealth of knowledge in the health care field that she will share with us. Our Prime Time Guys had her as a speaker and were delighted with her visit. As usual we meet at 11:30 AM in the Wesley Room. Please bring a sandwich, our hostesses will provide sides, drinks and dessert.

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

Susan Darby • [tmadam007@aol.com](mailto:tmadam007@aol.com)

## Trinity Choir



Rehearsal for Trinity choir has begun for the fall and you are invited to join us for a Choir Open House on Wednesday, September 5 at 7:00. We will sing a little, fellowship a little, eat a little and sing a little more. If you have been thinking about joining Trinity Choir, this is the time to check it out! Not only do we provide music leadership each Sunday at 11:00, Trinity Choir sings at the Diocesan Choral Festival as well as special services and concerts. We are also singing the National Anthem at the Astros game on Friday, September 14!

Micki Balog • [mbalog@trinitywoodlands.org](mailto:mbalog@trinitywoodlands.org)

## Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King will have their first meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. Father Gerry will meet with us in the Sanctuary to guide us into another prayer filled year. We will receive the Holy Eucharist during the service. After the service we will return to the library where Delores Stafford, our president, will lead us in a short business meeting including an outline for the programs for the year.

The Daughters of the King is an order of women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church. A Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service, and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spirit of her parish.

Come, walk with us. We would love to have any women who are interested visit us. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month in Trinity's library at 7:00 PM. For more information about Daughters of the King contact the church office at 281.367.8113 or Delores Spafford at 281.363.9370.

*He will be your safety. He is full of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge. Respect for the Lord is the greatest treasure. Isaiah 11:1*

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

# Parish Life Ministry

The **Teens in Training (TNT's)** worked hard on their mission trip! Great job to all of you! A special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped; the games, the fun and the service projects couldn't have been done without you!



**Who Are We? Trinity!** Come join Team Trinity in the **Dragon Boat Races, Saturday September 29 at 1:00PM** at North Shore Park. We would love to have your time and talent to help build our Team Spirit. *Team Trinity is in need of teammates who can be cheerleaders, photographers, problem solvers, dodge ball participants or boat paddlers. Come out and join Trinity for this fun filled event.* Registration fee is \$10, payable to Trinity Episcopal Church. Childcare is provided upon request. For questions or to sign up please contact Liz Johnson at (281)367-8113 or at [ljohnson@trinitywoodlands.org](mailto:ljohnson@trinitywoodlands.org).



Dragon Boat Races

# Parish Life Ministry

## KIDS CORNER NEWS

### KIDS NIGHT OUT

*September 8th* is Kids Night Out. Dinner, snack and a good time are provided. The cost is \$25.00 per child or \$40.00 per family. The time is 5:30PM-9:30PM. For questions or to RSVP contact Liz Johnson at 281.367.8113 or at [ljohnson@trinitywoodlands.org](mailto:ljohnson@trinitywoodlands.org) by 9/6.

Trinity Kids Corner Halloween Party is *October 27th*. Your child is more than welcome to wear their costume; please no masks or weapons. Dinner, snack and a good time are provided. The cost is \$25.00 per child or \$40.00 per family. The time is 5:30pm-9:30pm. For questions or to RSVP contact Liz Johnson at 281.367.8113 or at [ljohnson@trinitywoodlands.org](mailto:ljohnson@trinitywoodlands.org) by 10/25.

### JESUS AND ME PROGRAM

Our Jesus and Me program will start September 4th. This is a faith-based program for children under the age of two. It is every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30am to 2:00pm. The cost is \$25.00 per child or \$40.00 per family. For questions or to enroll please contact Liz Johnson at 281.367.8113 or at [ljohnson@trinitywoodlands.org](mailto:ljohnson@trinitywoodlands.org).

### SUMMER PROGRAM 2012

Our Summer Program has come to the end. The summer program was a huge success! We had 90 families enrolled in the summer camp and over 50 new families. Feel free to stop by Trinity Kids Corner and see our pictures from the summer.

For more information on any of these events, please check out the Weekly Tidings (blue sheets), our Trinity Facebook page or web-site at [www.trinitywoodlands.org](http://www.trinitywoodlands.org).

## Coming up for Parish Life:

**September 8:**

**Safeguarding God's Children**

**September 9:**

**Children, TNT and Youth Sunday School begins**

**September 9:**

**Youth Community begins**

**September 12:**

**Coffee Talk for Youth begins**

**September 14:**

**Episcopal Night at the Astros**

**September 16:**

**TNT set-up for Family Promise**

**September 23: 1:30-3:30PM**

**Kids For Christ Messy Games**

**September 28**

**Dragon Boat Carb Load Dinner**

**September 29:**

**Dragon Boat Race, North Shore Park**

**September 30:**

**Parent's Day at Children's Sunday School**

**October TBD:**

**Blessing of the Animals**

**October 14:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bibles (contact Liz Linger in the church office if you have a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader)**

**October 14:**

**Teens in Training Bake Sale**

**October 28:**

**Parish Potluck Picnic**

## AROUND THE PARISH



### Trinity Tricksters

**T**he Trinity Tricksters bridge group meets at 7:00 PM on the fourth Tuesday of each month in Butler Fellowship Hall library. The format is four-hand bridge with Chicago scoring. This is to avoid rubbers of long duration. This is the most fun you can have sitting in a chair. If you are interested in joining this enjoyable fellowship group, please send an e-mail to Judy Isphording at [BridgeNana@sbcglobal.net](mailto:BridgeNana@sbcglobal.net), or call her at 281.364.1559 to reserve your chair.

*To be sure you have a 'full deck' later in life, play bridge!*

*Judy Isphording • [BridgeNana@sbcglobal.net](mailto:BridgeNana@sbcglobal.net) • 281.364.1559*

### Fall Foyers

**S**eptember is the month to sign up for Fall Foyers and will continue through the end of the month. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. The French word "foyer" means "hearth or fireside" and suggests small groups in a relaxed and casual atmosphere. Foyers provide an opportunity for fellowship and focus on hospitality rather than entertainment. Folks get together and enjoy each other's company. Groups of 6-8 (combined at random, rather than by age, zip code, etc.) meet three or four times over a six-month period for a simple meal and relaxed conversation. Couples or individuals take turns hosting. Each Foyers group determines its own meeting date. Please sign up in the Narthex and join us. If you have any questions, please contact Jack and San West at 281.298.8811.

*Jack and San West • 281.298.8811*

### Trinity Tennisers (TT)

**T**T activities were initiated on April 1, 2012. Sunday, August 5, 2012, we celebrated our fifth Sunday playing tennis; however this was the first time we were fortunate to have played on indoor courts in order to avoid the rain.

So far twenty four (24) different players have participated in our matches including **Deacon Bob Horner**, **Verger Martha Martz**, **Vestry Member Tom Budde**, and **Usher Captain Mike Thomson**. The ten players who played indoors are shown below and included first timers **Steve Isphording** and **Jackie Winters**. Additional matches will be played throughout this year on September 2nd, October 7th, November 4th, and December 2nd.

I will not play on September 2nd because I will be in New York City to witness my son, **Lemuel Preston Randolph**, receiving two awards from the United States Tennis Association (USTA) for the 2012 USTA Outstanding Facility Award and the 2012 USTA Featured Facility Award. Lemuel is Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space in McKinney, Texas. For those who wish to join TT or desire additional information, please contact Lynwood Randolph at [LRandolph@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LRandolph@sbcglobal.net) or 281.356.2030.

*Lynwood Randolph • [LRandolph@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LRandolph@sbcglobal.net) • 281.356.2030*



Left to Right: Lynwood Randolph, Aris Macris, Leslie Hajdo, Steve Isphording, Tom Budde, Jeanette Bremmer, Cynthia Kendall, Karen Budde, Martha Martz, and Jackie Winters.

## AROUND THE PARISH



### Trinity Veterans Fellowship

**Y**ou are one of the moving human, spiritual beings that have become part of a whole. That whole may not be apparent to you, but your contribution through religious affiliation, public service, social organization or friendship, may become visible in this smallest of recent acts:

Four years ago, a small group of individuals sat at a table in a local eatery, intent on forming a fellowship for their mutual growth and benefit. That fellowship grew and attracted more like-minded people and became the Trinity Veterans Fellowship. Through this fellowship they have continued their life of service to Christ and their country. Initially they organized and produced a weeknight service of "Recognition & Remembrance" in November around Veterans Day. A neighboring church, Lord of Life Lutheran, had a similar group of veterans and proposed combining forces for a joint annual service. This year we will conduct the third annual Veterans Day Service together. This event has raised over \$5,000 to support the needs of veterans and their families at the Houston VA hospital. This year's service will be held at Lord of Life Lutheran Church at 7 pm on Thursday, November 8, 2012. The one-hour service will be followed by a reception. The entire parish family is invited to join us to remember and honor veterans of the Armed Services.

Continuing in the spirit of ecumenical fellowship, Veterans from the Lord of Life Lutheran and Trinity Episcopal Churches recently supported the Montgomery County Veterans Service Office. Approximately seventy veterans, spouses, and widows attended this Benefits and Breakfast meeting. The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Ms. Kay Lee of the Montgomery County Veterans Service Office providing attendees critical information about available veterans benefits. The Benefits & Breakfast was attended and supported by Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and Woodlands Post 305 of The American Legion.

Trinity's monthly collection of non-monetary donations for the DeBakey VA Hospital, at Fourth Sunday for the Vet,

continues to be a vibrant outpouring of love and has grown in total to U-Haul truck volume. Another interaction has blossomed out of Post 305's need to transport a quantity of books and magazines to M.E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. An individual who sat in the "local eatery...(with) intent on fellowship formation" recently transported that pick-up truckload for The American Legion.

We are all connected. We may not see the daily interaction. And, we do not know what connection our actions produce. We offer this short story as a tribute to your connection in fellowship and service.

Finally, we ask that you pray for those who serve, and their families –

*"Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"*

A Prayer Book for The Armed Forces, 2008

Stoney Cox • 713.471.7600 • [coxstoney@gmail.com](mailto:coxstoney@gmail.com)  
(with grateful assist from Jay Cadmus)

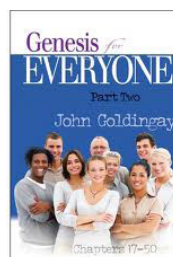
### Ladies Friday Morning Bible Study

**L**adies Friday Morning Bible Study will resume meeting Friday, September 14 from 9:30 AM until 11:00 AM in the Wesley Room for brunch prior to completing the study of Genesis. The text we are using is John Godlingray's *Genesis for Everyone* and is available in the Trinity Bookstore.

As soon as we complete Genesis, we will proceed on with Exodus. The text will be John Goldingray's *Exodus for Everyone*, also available in the Trinity Bookstore.

We are an intergenerational group and everyone is invited. Any questions? Please contact the facilitator, San West at 281.298.8811. Childcare is provided by request.

San West • 281.298.8811



## AROUND THE PARISH



### Stewardship

Please walk with me for a short journey of discovery about Stewardship. For it is in growing understanding of Stewardship that I have learned most about my relationship with God. A most recent lesson is that we are all Stewards of God's gifts, the questions is whether we are good stewards or poor stewards of what God has given us. A lesson that I learned a long time ago is that a tithe (ten percent) is the minimum the bible expects me to give back to God, and it should be given first. This is a minimum, so even if you do tithe it does not make you righteous. Now in this much, as in the commandments, I have fallen and continue to fall woefully short on my own merits.

This is all pretty strong stuff, and hopefully you have continued to follow me up to this point, because this is where the good news comes in. There are steps we can take to be a better steward. I started out as a random giver, a person who paid the price of admission to this Sunday's "show", when I attended, with a random amount of the cash on hand. Later the Lord moved me to be intentional about my giving and sent angels in the form of Pony Express riders to my door with a pledge card, a pen and anxious looks of concern for my soul should they leave without a completed card. Since then, I have been intentional about my commitment to give by praying, considering, and growing as I write down my commitment and share that personal commitment with my wife and the church accountant.

I have learned that it is not these works that bring me righteousness, but they do bring me into greater understanding of God's love for me. Righteousness comes from the grace of God, for God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall have eternal life. God is a giver; and we come closer to his image and better disciples of His Son as we become better givers.

In October we will be conducting our fall commitment campaign. I ask that you take steps with me to be a better steward of your gifts. [Bring in or send in a completed commitment card for the in-gathering Sunday October 28.]

*Tracy Atkins and Tom Budde*

### Between The Bookends



The Trinity Bookstore continues to grow and is making some changes by bringing in fresh perspectives to better serve our Trinity family. **Carol Montgomery** has graciously accepted the role of co-manager of the bookstore as I step down. Though I will no longer be serving as one of the managers, I will continue to be supportive of this ministry as one of the Bookworms who volunteer in the store. I highly recommend this to anyone looking to

plug into a ministry with fellowship and good books.

- During Rally Day we will have tables outside the bookstore filled with clearance items. Please come and browse our extensive inventory at deeply discounted prices!
- We have openings for Holy Bookworms and anyone who is interested should contact **Stacey McKinley**, **Kay Sevic**, or **Carol Montgomery**. Remember, Holy Bookworms receive a 20% discount on all non-clearance items in the store.

If you have suggestions or requests, please share them with one of us, or with one of the fabulous Holy Bookworms. We are blessed to be a part of this ministry and welcome the opportunity to share and exchange ideas. Stop in, visit, and see what's going on between the bookends.

I've very much enjoyed the opportunity to work in this ministry and feel blessed to have been a part of such a warm and welcoming spirit in service. Thank you for making my time in the Bookstore so enjoyable and memorable.

*Peace,*

*Dawn Bremer, Stacey McKinley, Carol Montgomery, and Kay Sevic*

### Holy Smoker's Donates Freezer

Because of the continued generous support to support the functions of the Holy Smokers, the ministry was able to donate a new freezer for the kitchen. Thank you Trinity!

# 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?

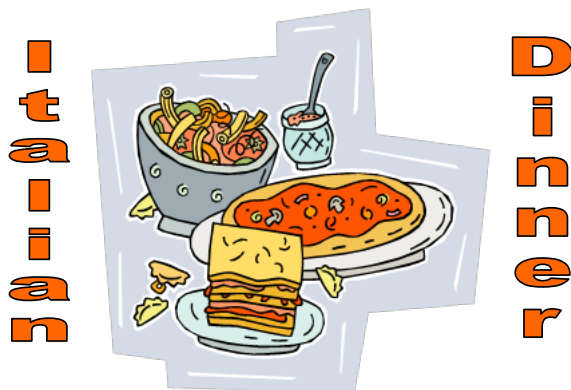
If you answered yes or maybe to any of these questions, then this is

*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!

## *September Newcomers': Italian Dinner*



Trinity Episcopal Church  
extends an open invitation for you to the  
**OCTOBER NEWCOMERS' DINNER**  
Sunday, October 21, 2012, 6:30 pm at the home of

Gary and Susan Darby  
2 Lakemist Circle  
The Woodlands, TX 77381

This month's theme is Oktoberfest. Please, bring your favorite Oktoberfest 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](mailto: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.

Trinity Episcopal Church  
extends an open invitation for you to the  
**SEPTEMBER NEWCOMERS' DINNER**  
Sunday, September 16, 2012, 6:30 pm at the home of

John and Stacey McKinley  
6607 Firebrook Court  
Spring, TX 77389

This month's theme is Italian. Please, bring your favorite 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](mailto:bevredd@gmail.com) or Randy Redd at 832.494.8321 or [ranredd@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## *October Newcomers': Oktoberfest*



## VESTRY

**W**ith the end of summer vacation season comes the chance to rethink and renew our commitments to family, friends, and our church. The commitment of time, talent, and treasure to a church mission is one that makes a real difference in the life of your fellow parishioners, the community, and your own life.

Rally Day Sunday, August 26th was your opportunity to see the range of current ministries, talk to people already involved in them, and discern what you think best fits your talents and interests. I hope you took the opportunity to sign up on the spot, but you can spend time considering and later contact the ministries that interest you. If you weren't able to participate then, please talk with a Vestry member or clergy member and they can help you find what you want. There are no deadlines to joining in our parish. And, if you don't find what you want, you can start your own ministry. For instance, BJ Ayala recently began a meditative prayer group on Sunday afternoons that has become very well attended.

The response to our new emergency fund has been fantastic, with over \$10,000 donated. This is about one-quarter of our goal, but is a great start to building a strong foundation for our future. Later in the Fall will be our annual stewardship campaign that asks for your financial commitment to the parish. This is the basis of our operating budget, and separate from the emergency fund, and provides the dollars for our buildings, staff, clergy, and outreach ministries. This is a commitment that needs particular attention from all of us. We have historically operated with a very skinny budget for a parish of over 1500 members, relying on volunteers and the efforts of parishioners, staff, vestry, and clergy to keep costs in line. As discussed in the Vestry letter to the parish in July, we are facing increased maintenance costs for our buildings along with the usual increases in costs for health insurance and other items. There have been some successes in reducing costs, such as moving *The Tidings* to bi-monthly and renegotiating our copier contract, but those moves have only partly off-set the added maintenance expenses and have not allowed for an annual cost-of-living increase for the staff and clergy. This last point is, I feel, very noteworthy as we all can relate to it and is a cost control measure that is unsustainable.

For those who pledge today, and have over the years, your commitment is very much appreciated. But less than 50 percent of parishioners pledge, and the normal level for an Episcopal parish is over 60 percent. That difference would not make us wealthy or frivolous, but would allow us to have the staff we need, pay them fairly, and maintain our buildings and ministries in a proper manner.

And finally, we have begun the process of selecting candidates for next year's Vestry and Diocesan Council delegates. These are positions that are important to the direction of the parish and diocese, and require thoughtful discernment to understand if they match your gifts. If you have questions, or want to offer your services, please contact me or any Vestry member.

*Randy Redd*  
*Senior Warden*

# FINANCIALS

Through the month of July 2012, Trinity's financial results reflect a year-to-date surplus of \$34 thousand. Contributions remain ahead of the year-to-date 2011, and have been relatively strong during the traditionally slower months of Summer. We also have a good start with over \$10 thousand contributed towards our new Trinity Reserve Fund which is designated for unplanned emergencies that our Operating Budget cannot fund. Thanks to all of you for sustaining your giving throughout the Summer!

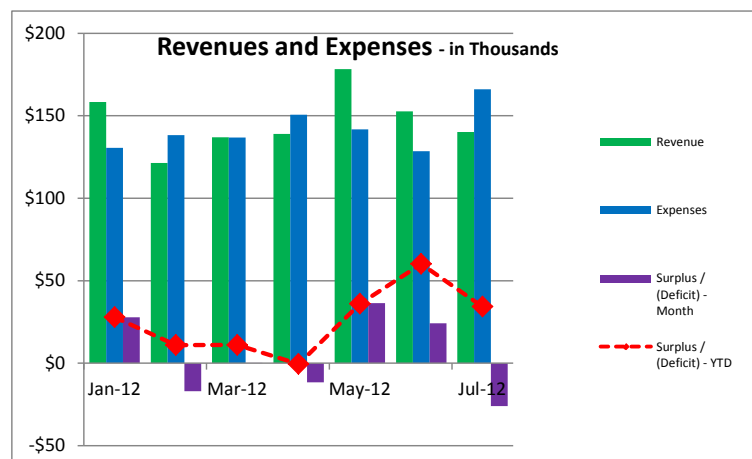
Expenses were relatively low in June, but have ticked up during July due to both seasonal expenses (e.g. timing of mission trips; quarterly insurance payments, VBS and summer child care programs) as well as higher maintenance and repairs. We will likely see some of these expenses also spill-over into August.

As we return from Summer, we find ourselves in a stronger financial condition than we were one year ago. The church continues to grow its membership as seen by our average Sunday attendance. We have an outstanding variety of ministry programs that benefit our children, our community, and our spiritual development. I hope you all will take the opportunity to consider giving of your time and talent in one of our ministries.

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

*Tony Stavins, Treasurer • [TStavins@comcast.net](mailto:TStavins@comcast.net)*

Year to Date	2012 January	2012 February	2012 March	2012 April	2012 May	2012 June	2012 July
Revenue	\$ 158.4	\$ 121.4	\$ 136.9	\$ 139.0	\$ 178.2	\$ 152.7	\$ 140.1
Expenses	\$ 130.5	\$ 138.3	\$ 136.8	\$ 150.6	\$ 141.7	\$ 128.5	\$ 166.0
Revenue Surplus/(Deficit) - Mth	\$ 27.9	\$ (16.9)	\$ 100	\$ (11.6)	\$ 36.5	\$ 24.2	\$ (25.9)
Revenue Surplus/(Deficit) - Year	\$ 27.9	\$ 11.0	\$ 11.1	\$ 500	\$ 36.0	\$ 60.2	\$ 34.3



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](http://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 Elect

## 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.

