

# TRINITY TIDINGS

The mission of Trinity Church is to Worship God in Christ, Welcome all people, Rejoice in fellowship, Grow in knowledge, Give of ourselves, Care for one another, Serve the world, and Proclaim the good news of God in Christ.

Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury, Pennsylvania

December 2005

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## Outreach/Service Ministry – Caring and Giving

— Rosemary Reshetar, Vestry Liaison

The Outreach/Service Ministry oversees Trinity's caring and giving, encouraging the active participation of everyone in the parish. As Trinity seeks to demonstrate commitment to all people throughout God's kingdom, applying Trinity's principal parish resources of time, talents and treasure through outreach is integral. Volunteers are always welcome. There are opportunities to help with existing projects as well as expanding Trinity's outreach.

There are many aspects to the Outreach/Service Ministry – it involves many hands-on ministries. It includes the activities you hear about on many Sundays: Aid for Friends, Habitat for Humanity, Lambertville Food Pantry, NGA (formerly the Needlework Guild), Peacemeal, Red Cross Blood Drive, Alternative Gift Market, and International Outreach (Guatemala and Kenya).



All of these are highlighted in the Trinity Directory and summarized in Trinity's Annual Report. The primary fundraiser for the ministry is the annual House Tour which was just completed in October. To give you a better feeling for the Outreach/Service Ministry, the following provides highlights of some of our ministries.

### Spotlight on Outreach/Service Ministries

**Aid for Friends** – Would you like to help feed the needy homebound? Then consider joining Trinity in the kitchen for its next "cook-in." Volunteers join in fellowship every few months to cook and package ready-to-eat meals. These meals are then frozen and distributed to a central location in Doylestown and delivered through the Aid for Friends (AFF) network in central Bucks County. You can also participate in this ministry as often as you would like by freezing individual servings of dinners prepared at home. Just grab a set of AFF trays from the back room of the kitchen and bring them in to the Trinity freezer. Opportunities also exist to personally



Coffee Hour  
Open House  
Outreach/Service  
Ministry

Sunday, December 4  
10:30 a.m.

(continued on p. 10)

## Advent at Trinity

Trinity offers many opportunities during the four-week season of Advent. Call the Church Office at (215) 297-5135 for more information on any of these events and offerings.

**Advent Devotional Calendars** – Available in McArthur Hall in late November.

### **Holiday Country Store and Breakfast with St. Nicholas** –

All on Saturday, December 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Start with **Breakfast with St. Nicholas**, then shop the **Holiday Country Store**, featuring Trinity's Cookies, our Men's Lib Table, the holiday greens raffle tickets and crafts. See Page 4 for more information on this day!

**Handel's "Messiah"** – Trinity's Senior Choir, soloists and 16-piece orchestra share their annual presentation on Sunday, December 4, at 4:00 p.m.

**Advent Retreats** – Available on December 10 and December 17. See Page 2 and Page 3 for more information.

**Advent Forum** – With Rev. Marshall Shelly on Sunday, December 11 at 10:30 a.m.

**Children's Christmas Pageant** – A joyous and spirit-filled celebration of the Nativity of our Lord celebrated on Sunday, December 18, at the 9:15 a.m. service.



## Advent: Quiet Day Retreats

– Rev. Marshall Shelly and Rev. Dr. Virginia Sheay

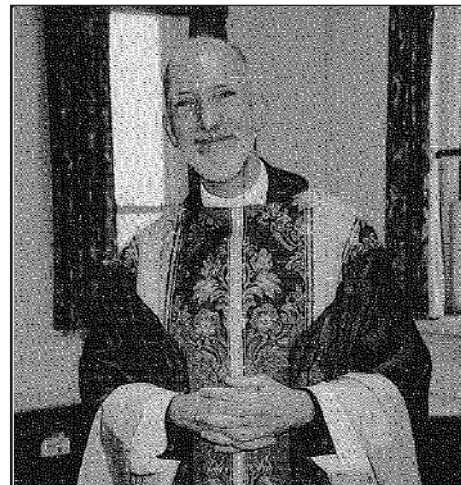


Advent is a season of preparation, watchfulness and hope. Even as the days shorten and grow colder, as the hours count down to the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity and Epiphany of Our Lord, we take a short season of austerity to heart, listening for the promises of God being fulfilled to us in the revelation of His Son.

Trinity has a rich season of reflection, worship and preparation in store for all who seek to advent the coming of our God. From shifts in our Sunday worship, to special formation opportunities, to celebrations of the season, mark your calendars in preparation for the season to come!

**Advent Quiet Day at Cuttalossa Farm, December 10, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** At an Advent Quiet Day at Cuttalossa Farm, we will welcome the Rev. Peter De Franco. Rev. De Franco will be present "Contemplative Dimensions of the Advent Stories," a program showcasing the lessons of Advent. The Advent stories of the Annunciations to Mary and to Joseph, the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth lead to the story of the birth of Jesus and his manifestation to the Magi. Deep in these stories lie lessons for living the contemplative life through practices of silence, listening, loving presence, hospitality, and transformative union with Christ.

Drawing on monastic and patristic sources, the Rev. De Franco will examine these stories as a path to contemplative prayer moving from the beginning of the spiritual journey with purification, through illumination and culminating in transforming union with Christ. He will use a range of stories to illustrate various contemplative practices and moments in the spiritual journey, then translate the traditional language of classical spirituality into accessible terms and idioms, drawing from contemporary life and psychology.



The **Rev. Peter De Franco** currently serves as Interim Rector at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Clifton, NJ. He earned a Master of Divinity at Drew Theological School in Madison, NJ with Anglican Studies at General Theological Seminary in New York. For about five years he lived as a contemplative monk at St. Joseph's Abbey where he studied contemplative prayer with the Rev. Thomas Keating, Cistercian Order of the Strict Observance (O.C.S.O.).

If you are interested in attending this retreat, you are encouraged to read and meditate on *Matthew 1-2* and *Luke 1-2*. The day's events will include conferences, discussions, and periods of silent and communal prayer. Please call the Church Office at (215) 297-5135 to reserve a place. Space is limited.



**Advent Quiet Day at Trinity Chapel, December 17, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Keeping with tradition, Rev. Dr. Ginny Sheay will lead a quiet day retreat in the Chapel on December 17. This year, she will lead meditations for quiet reflection on the poem by W. H. Auden, "*For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio*." The poem is a complex blend of the story of the coming of Christ and a commentary on the present time (written between

1941 and 1942), yet with a prophetic sense about it. During the retreat, there will be study time, conversations and quiet reflection. Take time to read this work prior to the retreat. The poem is available in *Collected Longer Poems*, W. H. Auden, Random House, Inc., New York, 2002, available through your local library or bookstore. Bring a copy with you to the retreat! Coffee will be provided. Contact the Church Office at (215) 297-5135 to register or sign-up on the easel board in the Narthex.

**Holiday Giving Tree – Donations Still Welcome** – Kyle Evans, Director of Youth and Church School Ministries

It's not too late to participate in the annual Holiday Giving Tree. The "Giving Tree" in McArthur Hall still has some requests for gifts to benefit the children of the Bucks County Housing Group's shelter in Doylestown, families supported by Episcopal Community Services' Project SAFE and families affected by Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Region of Mississippi. Cash donations are welcomed, too!

**How to Give:**

- Choose a card and then return wrapped gifts or enveloped gift certificates, with the card you selected, to the designated boxes by the Holiday Giving Tree or to the Church Office by Monday, December 12.
- In lieu of a gift, you may make a cash donation. Please have your cash donations in by Wednesday, December 7, marked "Giving Tree Donation." The Youth Group will do the shopping and wrapping when they get together that evening.

The Youth Group will deliver the gift certificates and presents on Tuesday, December 13. If you have any questions contact Kyle Evans at (215) 297-5135 Ext. 229 or email [kevans@trinitysolebury.org](mailto:kevans@trinitysolebury.org).



Flowers at Christmastime enhance our worship and remind us of the many gifts God has given us throughout the year. Donations for Christmas flowers in honor or memory of a loved one or group in any dollar amount may be sent to the Church Office, c/o Cindy Baker or placed in the Offering Plate in the envelope provided in the pews. Note in the memo on your check "Christmas Flowers." Donations received by December 9 will be included in the Christmas bulletin. For more information, contact Carlie Zaroff at (215) 598-8996 or email [czaroff@yahoo.com](mailto:czaroff@yahoo.com).

## December 3rd – A Wonderful Holiday Extravaganza!

On Saturday, December 3, many fun events will take place in and around Trinity Church. Here's a quick guide so you won't miss anything! All the fun starts at 9:00 a.m. and concludes with the raffle drawing at 12:30 p.m. Come join your fellow parishioners and friends from the community for a wonderful way to kick-start the holiday season!

### Breakfast with St. Nicholas 9:00a.m. – 11:30p.m.

This event starts at 9:00 a.m. in McArthur Hall ... come enjoy a buffet breakfast, storytelling by Anna Wyman in the Narthex, arts and crafts, and visit with St. Nicholas. Bring an unwrapped toy to share with victims of Hurricane Katrina! The cost will be \$15.00 per adult and \$10.00 per child. Pictures with St. Nicholas are available for an additional \$5.00. Breakfast seating is until 10:30 a.m. Festivities conclude at 11:30 a.m.



### Holiday Country Store 9:00a.m. – 12:00p.m.

Come shop and get some of those holiday needs taken care of in one place! All in Trinity's Chapel starting at 9:00 a.m.!

**Men's Lib** – In addition to getting that copy of *Bucks Cooks* cookbook you've been looking for (and one for a friend), see what interesting items the *Men of Trinity* have "cooked-up" for us this year!

**International Crafts** – Support our outreach initiatives by purchasing Guatemalan and Kenyan crafts ... unique items you'll not find anywhere else!

**Trinity's Cookies** – Yes, these are the one and only, famous Christmas cookies. Be sure to get your box early!

**Holiday Greens** – No need to go around from one place to another ... you can get your wreath and centerpiece right here. Be sure to come early to capture one of the famous boxwood trees!

**Poinsettias** – Don't forget to pick up a poinsettia to add that final touch to your holiday décor! Support Trinity's Youth Group by adding some beautiful color to your home this holiday!

**Other Goodies** – There will be chocolate covered pretzels and other sweets available to tempt you!

**Raffle** – Take a chance that you'll have the lucky ticket for many lovely items! Tickets are \$5.00 each or six for \$25.00. The raffle will close the Holiday Country Store festivities at 12:30 p.m.



# Feast Days in December

– Rev. Marshall Shelly

## St. Thomas, Apostle, December 21

(Holy Eucharist, 7:30 a.m.)

Thomas, one of the Twelve who first followed Jesus, is remembered particularly in the *Gospel according to John*. He was characterized as the proverbial skeptic, doubting and challenging the wisdom of some of Jesus' decisions in his earthly ministry. He penultimately rejected the testimony of the disciples of their experience of Our Lord's resurrection. Legend has it that he evangelized the Parthians. The Syrian Christians of Malabar, India, look to him as their patron to this day, calling themselves the Mar Thoma Church in his memory. Several Gnostic writings are attributed to him, including the *Gospel of Thomas*.

## The Nativity of Our Lord, December 25 (Holy Eucharist, 10:00 a.m.)

The date commemorating the birth of Jesus was not actually fixed until the year 336 of the Common Era. It supplants the ancient Roman observance of the Winter Solstice, the Feast of the Unconquerable Sun; but for centuries the support for this being the historical date of Christ's birth was supported by "learned if ingenious scholars." Often seen as the primary feast of the Christian year, it actually was a minor observance for the first millennia of the life of the Church, Easter being the primary incarnational feast for both East and West.

## St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr, December 26

Stephen was one of seven commissioned by the apostles to see to the needs of the poor in the earliest days of the Church. Commissioned as *διακονοι*, or deacons (servants), they carried most of the administrative burden of the assembly in caring for widows, orphans and the less fortunate as well as serving the common table. Stephen came under criticism when his activities, preaching and performing miracles, were seen to have exceeded his mandate. Accused of blasphemy by his detractors, he was summarily stoned to death after a powerful sermon he preached as his trial so enraged the body of judges, the Sanhedrin. A young Pharisee (Saul later Paul) consented to his killing, which precipitated a persecution of the early Church.

## St John, Evangelist, December 27

John, brother of James and son of Zebedee, was one of the first called by Jesus to follow him. Often referred to as "the disciple whom Jesus loved," he is seen as having had a special relationship with the Christ. The *Gospel of John* and the *Book of the Revelation* are attributed to him. Of all the disciples, he alone is thought to have lived to old age, supposedly settling in Ephesus in his later years.

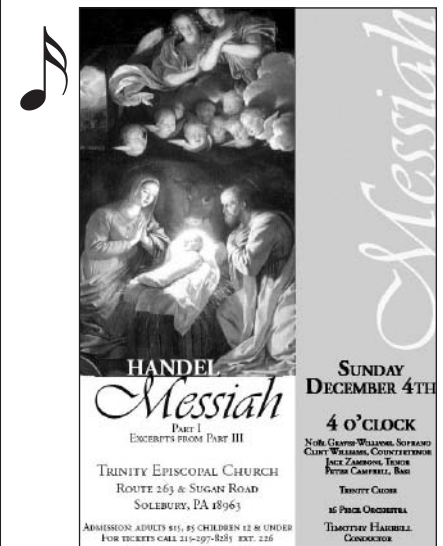
## Holy Innocents, December 28

When Herod was told by the Magi of the signs foretelling the birth of a new king of Israel, he purportedly ordered the murder of all infant boys under the age of two in the area in and around the ancient city of Bethlehem. For millennia, the Church has remembered these victims of Herod's ruthless defense of his right to rule in Judea.



# Handel's "Messiah" Comes to Trinity Episcopal in Solebury

– Tim Harrell, Organist/Choirmaster



The thirty-five voice Senior Choir of Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury and a sixteen piece chamber orchestra, all under the direction of Trinity's organist/choirmaster Tim Harrell, will give their seventh annual performance of *Handel's "Messiah"* on Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 p.m. in the church. The program includes Part I and selections from Part II and Part III of Handel's masterpiece.

Featured soloists include Noël Graves-Williams (soprano), Clint Williams (counter tenor), Jack Zamboni (tenor), and Peter Campbell (bass).

*When I first started singing, playing, and then conducting "Messiah," I treated it as if it was simply another wonderful piece of music. With each passing year, the incredible power, magnitude and beauty of "Messiah" becomes more and more evident, and I can't imagine a Christmas season at Trinity without it.*

Admission is \$15.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 12 and under. A reception will follow in McArthur Hall. For ticket information and further details contact the Church Office at (215) 297-5135. Tickets will be available at the door.

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## Vestry Corner — Nancy Cullen, People's Warden

This month I would like to use the Vestry Corner to say 'good-bye' and 'thank you' to three valued members of the Vestry who will be stepping down between November and the first of the new year. They are Rosemary Reshetar, Cara Coreale, and Jim Jones.



Rosemary Reshetar has served as the Vestry liaison for Trinity's Outreach/Service Ministry and has been a strong chair for the group. She has worked very hard at making outreach an interactive part of the Trinity vision and has succeeded. In this last year alone, Rosemary has navigated her ministry through quick responses to the numerous natural disasters that have occurred not only locally, but nationally and internationally. Rosemary and her family will continue to worship at Trinity, so please thank her for all her hard work and dedication.

Cara Coreale has served as the Vestry liaison for Trinity's Parish Life Ministry. If you have come to a Newcomer's Dinner you have tasted the delights of Cara's wonderful cooking – but the most fun is working with her in the kitchen! Among her numerous duties for Parish Life, Cara has also found time to chair Lobsterfest for the past three years and also volunteers as a sponsor for the Trinity Youth Group. Cara and her family will be moving to Kentucky where her

husband, Brett Hall, has taken a new position. Be sure to thank Cara for all she and her family have done for our Trinity family. Their smiling faces will be missed.

Jim Jones has served Trinity as the Rector's Warden. His accessibility, knowledge, and strength of character have served him well in this very demanding position. His term as Rector's Warden was one of constant change for Trinity. He helped us through the departure of one rector, worked side-by-side with our interim rector, and then ushered in our new rector. But through it all Jim saw Trinity as a solid church family, and he called on all of us to reach into ourselves and help each other through these periods of change and uncertainty – and we did! Jim has touched many lives at Trinity and we will truly miss him and his wife, Eileen.

It has been my privilege to serve on Vestry with Rosemary, Cara, and Jim. They have given selflessly of themselves and the ministries they leave behind will continue to flourish because of the seeds they have sown. I know that the entire Trinity family joins me in sending you a resounding 'Thank You'.

***Thanks be to God!***

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## Budget Progress towards Fiscal Balance

– Julie Loftus, Vestry Liaison, Finance Ministry



**2005 Finance Update** – Trinity closed October 2005 much stronger than anticipated. Our year-to-date projected loss is down to \$46,000, an amount closer to the original 2005 Budget. The congregation and our friends at Trinity,

have given so much to help us through these difficult financial times this year. We give thanks to all that have helped. Trinity has more financial "catch-up" in order to close the year with no loss.

Our original 2005 Budget suggested a \$45,000 loss and the Finance Ministry was hoping this deficit would shrink during the year. We are moving in that direction, but we only have less than two more months to go. So once again I am hoping that we will all consider an extra gift to bridge the gap before we start the new fiscal year. If everyone shared a small part of the burden, we can eliminate the deficit easily.

**2006 Budget** – As we continue working on the 2006 budget, we have many challenges in this new budgeting year. It is always our mission to embrace the

growth and new direction of Trinity's ministries. We are challenged to find ways to pay for all the growth. As the October Stewardship month ends, the Finance Ministry will review the dollars pledged to-date for next year and make recommendations to the Vestry in order to obtain a balanced budget. Keep us in your prayers as we continue the budget process.

Thank you to all the members, brothers and sisters in Christ, who have kept our Church and its ministries sound. Please remember to keep your pledges current and pay any balances for 2005 before the year ends. Contact me if you have questions related to finance at (215) 598-9989 or email [loftusjul@comcast.net](mailto:loftusjul@comcast.net). Financial Statements are available in the Church Office.

## Rector's Reflections — Rev. Marshall Shelly



This month's reflections have a dual purpose. The first is to celebrate the progress we are making as a parish in dealing

with the particular challenges of the past few months. The second is to point toward what we can begin to anticipate in the coming weeks of Advent, and the first few months of 2006.

Trinity continues to impress me with its grace, tenacity, strength and passion for life in spiritual community. These past couples of months of the program year, I would remind you, are the first we are sharing together as priest and people. The learning curve has indeed been quite steep, but the blessings have been plentiful.

Watching the children of the parish parade around the church during our All Saints' parade was a gift of joy. Participating with our youth delegates at the recent convention in Philadelphia, Michael Wortell, Julie Burd and Diocesan Youth Council member Misha Daukas was another blessing. Far from being resigned to being subjected to the conciliar remonstrations of the adults around them, they quite literally kept up with the proceedings by commenting on the elections and votes taken, inquiring about the political processes in play and generally challenging us to stay awake.

These are just two brief encounters I note about the life of Christ being great among us. Still more signs point to renewal and growth in the parish.

We are tracking well against the deficit with our reduction initiative. Stewardship returns are positive and we hope to make our goal for next year's ministry vision. Even in places where there are growing pains we are finding energy, joy and good work. The Church School continues to embrace the challenge of creating the right "mix" of program, liturgy and presence for our youngest families. Parish Life and Outreach are beginning to discern where we have been and where we might travel to in the future. Even the Vestry is seeking new paths as Nancy Cullen, People's Warden, takes on a broader role and we begin the nominating process for Vestry elections for Annual Meeting 2006.

But those are just some of the issues and graces we will experience in the weeks to come. We will enter a new year of worship together when the season and the liturgical year turns on November 27. Advent brings shifts in worship, posture and program as we prepare for the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany. Worship will "regularize" during Advent, with the 9:15 a.m. service being Holy Eucharist throughout. On the first Sunday of Advent, we will also observe one of the first rites to be translated into English, *The Great*

*Litany*, with a special procession in which the litany will be chanted, again at the 9:15 a.m. service.

Finally, we will bid farewell, liturgically, to some dear friends: the burse and veil which cover the chalice and paten on the altar will be retired as a symbol of the solemnity of the season ... and we will use our ceramic communion vessels as well. All of these elements will combine to remind us that Advent is more than an interlude on the way to Christmas. It is a season of anticipation of Christ coming to us; both as a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and as the King of Kings, come at the end of time to judge the world.

2006 will also kick off a year of formation and discernment! From the feast of Epiphany onward, the calendar is full of ways to deepen our common ties in spiritual community. From spiritual formation, worship and study to opportunities for outreach and mission, the bar continues to rise for us in our life in Christ.

I am heartened and invigorated by all that I continue to learn about this blessed parish. There is much we have to give thanks for in the coming weeks as we enter the holiday season. May God continue to bless us with the bounty of this challenging life in Christ!

Peace,

Marshall †

### ...And all of the Saints came marching in!



## October Stewardship Forum and Pledge Update – Jenn Blumenstock



On Sunday, October 23, the Stewardship Ministry hosted their annual forum. Patrick Summers began the forum by inviting parishioners to take a few minutes to listen and quietly reflect on stewardship and how it might affect their pledge to Trinity this year. With stewardship, we learn to give gifts back to God – our time, our talents, our relationships, and our money. The forum combined both scripture and personal stories of how some parishioners of Trinity share their gifts, why they share their gifts, and what the word "stewardship" means to them.

The scripture highlighted four aspects of stewardship – caring for your neighbor, giving all I am to God, giving from God's abundance, and practicing hospitality. Members from the Stewardship Ministry shared each reading. After the reading, three personal stories were shared.

### **"Stewardship is a responsibility" - Betsy Biern**

Betsy's reflection focused on her belief that stewardship is a responsibility. She has been blessed with good health, a family, being loved, and an amazing community. To her, giving back is a responsibility. By supporting Trinity, she can make more of an impact by supporting its missions and community.

### **"Stewardship is community" – Sam Thompson**

Sam's reflection began with his story of why he and his family came to Trinity. Sam and his family moved to this area seven years ago. The family closest to them lives six hours away. The Thompson family found a home at Trinity. Stewardship to Sam is not just what you can pledge; it is what you can do. It is singing in the choir, teaching Sunday school, and cooking eggs for the men's breakfast. It is what we do to make this community a home.

### **"Stewardship is support" – Fred Koberna**

Fred's reflection focused on the amazing staff at Trinity. How could we ever do without any member of our staff? This idea alone should have people pledging. Fred's family has seen first hand how the staff at Trinity is so dedicated and thoughtful. We all should be very grateful.

### **Pledge Update**

For the first week after Stewardship Sunday on October 30, we received 96 pledges for 2006 totaling \$344,367. For the same period last year, for 2005, we received 85 pledges totaling \$279,499. So this is an encouraging beginning to our pledge in-gathering. Stewardship information and pledge cards were mailed to 328 families. The goal for pledges for 2006 is \$647,000.

If you need a pledge card or need additional information, contact the Church Office at (215) 297-5135.

## Trinity Forums: God's Call to Us – Looking Ahead

– Caroline McCarthy, Lay Assistant

How is God calling you? Trinity Forum continues its focus in this year's forums on God's call to us and on our discernment of God's call to slow down and be aware of the movement of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

### **December 11**

#### *Rector's Forum*

#### *The Call and the Quest: Learning and Discerning the Message of Advent*

Advent is a time of waiting and of anticipation, a season in which we are called to understand ourselves as vessels of God's Holy Spirit. The Rev. Shelly will lead a discussion on how we as Anglican Christians can "pay attention" to ways God calls us to wait, offering insights into how we can witness to the incarnation of Emmanuel, "God with us." As part of his "teaching ministry" at Trinity, the Rev. Shelly will regularly lead discussions with the parish through periodic Rector's Forums.

### **January 22**

#### *The Call to Understand Ourselves and Each Other; an Introduction to Myers-Briggs Typology*

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator is an internationally recognized personality assessment tool developed to help people identify the natural and observable differences in the way we relate to the world and to each other. Trinity member, Lorri Perkins, certified facilitator in Myers-Briggs, will introduce Myers-Briggs as a way to increase our awareness of ourselves and others – a foundational tool of discernment, compassion and understanding.



**Trinity Annual Cookie Bake  
and  
October Newcomers' Dinner**



## Spotlight on Outreach/Service Ministries (continued from p. 1)

deliver meals to local clients. For more information, contact Michelle Summerson at (215) 862-1017 or email [jsummerson@aol.com](mailto:jsummerson@aol.com).

**Alternative Gifts** – An Alternative Gift is a nontraditional way of giving. For several years, Trinity has provided access to alternative gifts through Alternative Gifts International (AGI). AGI researches and puts forward a “shopping list” each year of projects that benefit the world. Through December 11 during Coffee Hour, order forms and informational brochures will be available. You may also speak to an Outreach/Service Ministry representative regarding the alternative gifts. For more information, contact Sue Scholer at (215) 297-5603 or email [smumf322@aol.com](mailto:smumf322@aol.com).

**Bucks County Opportunity Council's Adopt-A-Family Program** – The Women's Bible Study group is a sponsor of the Bucks County Opportunity Council's Adopt-A-Family Program. They have been sponsoring a single mother, a native of Pakistan, and her two young daughters. This woman is a former shelter resident who escaped an abusive husband and is working hard to achieve economic self-sufficiency. She is enrolled in a medical lab technician program at Montgomery County Community College and is one of five recipients of the 2005 Women in Business scholarships awarded by the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce. Last April, she was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, an honor society. She's the first Medical Technology student to have the grades to be so honored. She will graduate in May of '06 and has applied for citizenship.

The Women's Bible Study group has been helping the family over the last year with specific financial needs, as reported by the Bucks County

Opportunity Council. She is a Muslim and the group recently collected money to help with expenses for her religious holiday. It is hoped that she will be able to attend the groups Christmas luncheon so that everyone can finally meet her. Ann Bamford is the new liaison for this project.

**Grants for the Community** – One aspect of the Outreach/Service Ministry is to serve as a granting agency for Trinity. Approximately \$17,000 in funds is designated to support many community and international service ministries. Also, emergency funds were available and in the past year provided support for local flood relief, national hurricane relief, and Tsunami relief. While we strive to make quarterly donations, given the operating deficit at Trinity, we have been holding our disbursement of funds with the hope that we can send the funds to designated agencies by year's end.



### **Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County**

– In addition to granting some financial assistance to Habitat, Trinity also provides some hands-on help by scheduling work days several Saturdays during the year. The current Habitat project is in Trumbauersville where new town homes offer affordable housing to low income families.

Phase I of this project was completed in September and included 37 town homes. Of this number, 25 were offered to low income families and the remainder were sold in the open market with the proceeds from these sales being returned to help build other homes.

This part of the project used 8,500 individuals who volunteered 64,244 hours. Phase II has already begun, using land adjacent to Phase I. In this new phase, 36 additional town homes will be built.

In addition to volunteering on Trinity workdays, individuals can volunteer on any Wednesday, Thursday, or Saturday by calling Habitat directly at (215) 348-2204 Ext. 302. Youths can work on the construction site if they are age 15 or older, and they will need a parent to sign a volunteer form. Periodically, Habitat sponsors volunteer projects for children under age 15, i.e. bird house building, plantings, etc. For more information, you can go to their website at [www.habitatbucks.org](http://www.habitatbucks.org) or contact Beryl Hirsch at (215) 862-9607 (H) or (267) 482-8334 (W) or [hiberyl05@verizon.net](mailto:hiberyl05@verizon.net).

**NGA – New Clothes for New Tomorrows** – Having little or no choice in what to wear is a heavy burden many families in need have to carry. As a result, many children, teens and adults cannot appropriately present themselves

### **Some agencies receiving funds:**

A Woman's Place  
Bucks County Housing Groups  
Bucks County Opportunity Council  
Doylestown Hospital Free Clinic  
Delaware Valley Council of Churches  
Episcopal Community Services  
Episcopal Relief and Development  
Fish  
Habitat for Humanity  
The Needlework Guild (NGA)  
Oxfam America  
Samaritan Counseling  
VITA  
Volunteers for the Homeless

in public. Since a healthy self-image can strengthen emotional and physical health, it can ultimately boost performance in school and the workplace as well. NGA, formerly known as Needlework Guild, serves to help disadvantaged and at-risk individuals gain a sense of dignity and self-respect by providing new items of clothing, linens and toiletries through a network of over 200 community agencies.



In early November, the local branch of NGA held its annual in-gathering, collecting and distributing new items for social service agencies in the region, including Tabor's Children Services, Lenape Valley Foundation, Bucks County Children and Youth Group and Crossroads Pregnancy Center, to name a few. To help provide for this event, Trinity shoppers Polly Wood and Michelle Summerson stretched dollars to acquire close to 200 items of clothing, balancing quality and value to assist as many at-risk individuals as possible. Together with donations from other area churches, scout groups, schools, corporations and individuals, Trinity helped over 15 local agencies provide for thousands of disadvantaged neighbors in need. Look for ways to assist in this outreach effort in the months to come.

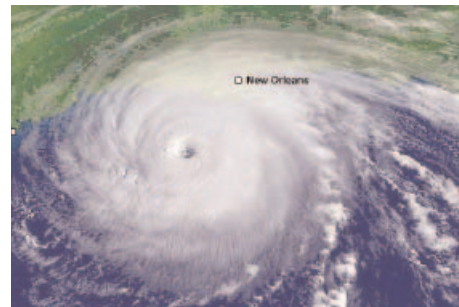
### Ministry in Transition

As we close the year, it is with mixed emotions that I'm letting you know that I will be transitioning out of my role as Vestry Liaison for the Outreach/Service

Ministry. While I think we are doing great work, and I am fully supportive of this ministry at Trinity, this is simply not a good time in my life to head a ministry. Over the past year the commitment has proved to be very stressful for me and has taken quite a toll on my family. I am looking forward to recreating my spiritual home at Trinity as I transition.

As for the Outreach/Service Ministry, this is a great opportunity to do an assessment of where the ministry is right now, what is on its plate and where it might go in the future. Many of the outreach activities were started when Trinity was a much smaller congregation and these have continued throughout the years.

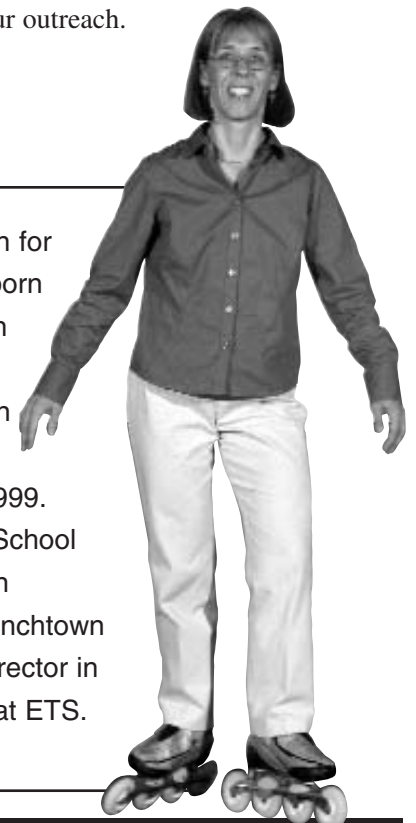
In addition, new needs for outreach have occurred especially during the past few years, with floods, earth-



quakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, a tsunami and the like. It is now a time for Trinity to consider how we can answer the unexpected and extraordinary calls to respond in the moment to crises while continuing long term with sustainable efforts like Habitat for Humanity, Mission Philadelphia, the blood drive, Peacemeal and others.

As we move into next year, without a doubt the Outreach/Service Ministry will continue to evolve and all of Trinity can be part of that evolution ... helping to shape the future of our outreach.

**Rosemary Reshetar** is the Vestry Liaison for the Outreach/Service Ministry. She was born and raised in Doylestown and has lived in Philadelphia, Texas and Massachusetts. Her family, husband Tim Jost and children Eliot and Chloe, have been members of Trinity since relocating to New Hope in 1999. At Trinity, Rosemary has taught Sunday School and served on the Stewardship Education Committee. She speed skates on the Frenchtown inline speed team and is an Executive Director in the Research and Development division at ETS.



# Remembering the Survivors of a Hurricane

-- The Wortell Family and the Harbaugh Family



Can you imagine it has been four months since Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf coast region? We have been enjoying a beautiful, unseasonable warm fall, while the victims of Hurricane Katrina have only just begun to determine how to begin putting their lives back together. They may be finally getting some money from their insurance companies or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Everybody will have to pay to replace their home and belongings with their own money. No matter how great their insurance coverage is.

Our family survived a direct hit of Hurricane Andrew in Miami, FL, August 23, 1992. Both of our homes were ravaged by the winds and small amount of rain in Hurricane Andrew. Fortunately, Gail and Jerry Harbaugh's house still had a roof and structural walls. There were no windows or screens left in the house. There was salt spray throughout the entire home.

Linda, Frank and Michael Wortell moved into the less damaged home since their home was 75 percent destroyed and uninhabitable.

Believe it or not, for three months there still was no electricity. Therefore, there was no running water, no air conditioning, no refrigeration, no computer access, no telephone lines, limited cell phone communication, no ATMs, no gas stations and no grocery stores. This is South Florida in August 1992, the heat of the summer! We finally got electricity the week of Thanksgiving.

We worked everyday, endless hours on end cleaning up debris, piling it at the street for an eventual collection. We would frequently take a "walk," surely not for the need of exercise. Can you imagine the roads in your neighborhood with piles of debris taller than the homes? We would carefully pick up nails and put them in our pockets to avoid flat tires. A memorable moment was one afternoon walking when a truck came up to us and offered us one cup of ice. We never knew ice was so tasty.

We lived with a curfew enforced by the National Guard who patrolled the area with military tanks, until the electricity was restored. Can you imagine military tanks patrolling your neighborhood? Michael was 7 months old and would

spend a good part of the night standing in his crib watching the helicopters transfer supplies from ships to inland.

We were lucky to have a generator sent to us from a relative in Maryland. However, this only supplied essential electricity to keep refrigeration, not freezer, and minimal lighting. When the sun went down, so did we.

We know that God was the reason we survived the storm itself. In addition, God was with us every moment during the recovery.

The Wortell's lived with the Harbaugh's for nearly a year waiting to find a new home to move into in the Miami area. It took the family two full years to repair the Harbaugh's home.

Personally, we know the experience as a family with this disaster taught us a lot. Our family stays together; we work problems out together; we depend on each other to see us through. We learned that we are survivors. We had many choices to make during those two years and with God's help we never gave up.

Please take time to remember the victims of the devastating hurricanes this year. They are survivors! They need to know we are able to help them! Reach out and be a good neighbor.

## ***The "lumberjacks" of Trinity felled the giant tree ... 1, 2, 3! Farewell after 114 years old friend.***





## Children's Communion Classes and Family Dinner in January

– Kyle Evans, Director of Youth and Church School Ministries

Trinity Church has a longstanding tradition of welcoming all people to God's table during Communion. In fact, it is customary in the Episcopal Church for children of all ages, as well as infants, to receive Holy Eucharist.

At Trinity there are families whose children receive communion from baptism. There are also those who choose to wait for their children to receive communion until they are older and able to receive some educational instruction. Each year, Trinity offers instruction to children, typically first grade or older, who either

wish to begin to receive Communion or have been receiving and want to deepen their understanding of this blessed sacrament.

The educational series begins with a family dinner, scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. The evening offers an opportunity for fellowship among the families of the children receiving this instruction and some initial, informal discussion about the meaning of Communion. Trinity Youth Group (TYG) members, who serve as spiritual sponsors to these young Communicants, will also be in attendance.

A second and final session will occur on Tuesday, January 24, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This afternoon gathering will be led by the Rev. Marshall Shelly and Kyle Evans and only involve the children. Recognition of these children will occur on Sunday, January 29 during the 9:15 a.m. service. They will sit in the front pews with their families and TYG sponsors and will be the first to receive Communion.

Please feel free to contact Kyle Evans at (215) 297-5135 Ext. 229 with questions or to register. In order to prepare for the dinner and make appropriate assignments of youth sponsors, please RSVP to the Church Office by Friday, January 13.

## Trinity Youth Group's Fall Retreat

– John Loftus, 6th Grade Trinity Youth Group Member



This year's fall retreat at Mensch Mill, Alburtis, PA was a great experience. The theme was the Far East. We took part in a lot of related activities including craft making, games and prayer time. The food and atmosphere was great! If you were a new member, it was a good time to meet other members and the sponsors. We started the weekend with a bonfire Friday evening, followed by meditation and prayer. Saturday, after breakfast, we enjoyed craft making. We made origami cranes and Japanese memorial lanterns. We also wrote Haikus. On Saturday night, most of the group dressed in Asian costume and participated in a talent show. The evening ended with a great movie. On Sunday, we gathered for Church. Some of us visited the lake before we traveled home. We had fun together while getting closer to God. We also experienced an awesome belief called Buddhism. We learned about fellowship. What a great experience!



# The Season of Epiphany

– Rev. Marshall Shelly

*Looking forward to Epiphany* – The feast of the Epiphany is a celebration of the revelation of the Christ to the world. We celebrate the return of the Light of God to us, as manifested in the presence of Jesus in his earthly ministry even as we anticipate his coming at the end of the age as King of Kings, Lord of Lords.

The feast of the Epiphany is celebrated in many churches with a commemoration of Twelfth Night (Eve of the Epiphany), including celebrations, bonfires and the serving of “king’s cake” at special meals. There are also commemorative processions of the Magi as they seek the new-born King.

Here at Trinity, we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with a special mid-week Eucharist. On January 8, the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord (often called Epiphany Sunday); we will welcome Bishop Coleridge for the annual Bishop’s Visitation. Even as we confirm, receive and reaffirm candidates for renewal in the life of the Church, we will also reaffirm our own connection to the wider diocese of Pennsylvania and the role Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury plays in the Body of Christ to this world.

*Getting ready for the Bishop’s Visitation* – On Sunday morning, January 8, members of the congregation who have been preparing for confirmation, reception and reaffirmation of their baptismal vows will be presented to the Bishop at a special liturgy. Please keep these people in your prayers, and make plans to join with the entire Trinity community as we celebrate a new chapter in our life as a parish and our connection to the wider church.



## EPIPHANY BONFIRE!

**Sunday, January 8  
3:00 p.m.**

**All are invited to Trinity’s Epiphany  
Bonfire**

Hosted by Richard, Jill and Raymond Dodds  
at their farm in Stockton  
56 Tumble Falls Road  
Stockton, New Jersey

Bring your Christmas tree to burn, and we will  
sing Epiphany hymns together and eat king’s  
cake to see who will be crowned as kings!

### Parish News

– Debbie Stedman, Parish  
Administrator

### Baptisms

Timothy Sean, son of Richard Chiapetta  
and Meghan McClusky  
David Tellner Lasser, son of Robert  
Lasser and Bernie Tellner

### Marriages

Sara Elizabeth Scholer and David  
Michael Frascella, daughter of Chuck  
and Sue Scholer  
Christine Sulzer and Francis  
Thomas Chardo III

### Deaths

Reid Malcolm, husband of  
Flossie Malcolm  
Chris Andreasen, partner of  
Barbara Woodcock  
Jeanne Long, sister of Carol Ferguson  
Bruce Kirtley, mother of Gray Diebolt  
George Bush, husband of Margery  
Charles Prescott, son of Helen  
and brother of Shirley

**With the Bishop’s  
visitation on  
January 8, 2006, there  
will be an opportunity  
for the sacrament of  
baptism. If you wish  
more information,  
contact the  
Church Office at  
(215) 297-5135.**

**Deadline for the  
January issue of  
*Tidings* is  
Monday, December 5**

# Mindfulness Meditation Classes Offered at Trinity

– Caroline McCarthy, Lay Assistant

Mark your calendars for an important and wonderful opportunity coming up during Lent 2006! During March and April of 2006, Trinity member Jeff Harrison will be offering Trinity members an 8-week class and full-day retreat on the practice of *Mindfulness Meditation* (Mindfulness).

Through Jeff Harrison’s psychotherapy background, he has studied under Jon Kabat Zinn, former director of the Stress-Reduction Clinic at University of Massachusetts, and founder of *Mindfulness Meditation*.

Mindfulness is the practice of purposefully attending to our lives and the world around us in the present moment in a non-judgmental way. It is the practice of “falling fully awake” in our everyday lives. Mindfulness meditation

is the formal practice for developing this way of life. Mindfulness meditation is fundamental to every major spiritual tradition, and is currently most commonly associated with Buddhism as taught by Ticht Nhat Hanh, and with Christian mysticism as taught by Thomas Merton. Mindfulness has application for almost all forms of spiritual growth, in addition to being used for the development of spiritual insight and transformation. It can even be used in a secular manner for stress reduction.

A standard 8-week course generally costs between \$800 and \$1,000 dollars and is covered by most insurance companies. Jeff Harrison is generously offering this course to Trinity members for no cost. Look for more details on this program in the next issue of *Tidings*.

# Trinity Pilgrimages to Monastic Retreats

– Caroline McCarthy, Lay Assistant



Several parishioners from Trinity’s Centering Prayer and Morning Prayer groups, Women’s Bible Study, and the Vestry went on a monastic retreat last month at Holy Cross Monastery, a community of Episcopal Benedictine monks located in West Park, NY on the Hudson River. Be

sure and ask about their time in this holy place of rest and enlivening of the Spirit. Participants in the retreat were: Earlene Austin, Carol Church, Nancy Cullen, Karen Dewar, Sue Eavenson, Shirley Felix, Tim Jost, Lisa Leydon, Caroline McCarthy, Cliff Nesbit, Mort Ryon, Sandy Ryon, and Susan Wells.

Trinity’s next monastic retreat will be February 17-19 to St. Helena’s Convent, a community of Episcopal Benedictine nuns located in Vail’s Gate, NY. If you are interested in participating in this retreat, please call the Church Office at (215) 297-5135. Space is limited. If you have questions regarding this retreat or regarding the spiritual discipline of taking retreats in general, please speak with Caroline McCarthy or the Rev. Marshall Shelly.

Take a moment to relax from the holiday buzz ... visit the Trinity web site. [www.trinitysolebury.org](http://www.trinitysolebury.org)

## Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury / Service Information

From early September through mid June, we celebrate Holy Eucharist services every Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., and on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays at 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer services are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 9:15 a.m., except during Advent and Lent when all services are Holy Eucharist. Youth Eucharist is celebrated every 3rd Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Chapel. On the first Sunday of the month, each service also offers healing prayers.

Childcare is available in the Nursery and Toddler Rooms during the 9:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. services. Mid-week services are held in our Chapel and include: Tuesday Centering Prayer, 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m., Wednesday Morning Eucharist, 7:30 a.m., and Thursday Morning Prayer, 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

## Tidings Staff

**Editor** .....Carlie Zaroff  
**Design/Layout** .....Allana Simons  
**Special Contributors** .....Wortell and Harbaugh Families  
**Photography** .....Jill Dodds, Frank Evans, Kyle Evans, Steve Wilson, Carlie Zaroff  
**Mail Preparation**..Barbara Woodcock, *captain*, Sue Benner, Prue Day, Barbara Matybell, Joan Worthington, Susie Rorer, Ashby Saunders, Bud Swain, Jane and John Kengetter

## TRINITY CHURCH STAFF

**Rector** .....Rev. Marshall K. Shelly  
**Clergy Assistant**.....Rev. Dr. Virginia Sheay  
**Lay Assistant**.....Caroline McCarthy  
**Dir., Trinity Day School**.....Cindy Bove  
**Dir., Youth & Church School Ministries** .....Kyle Evans  
**Organist / Choirmaster** .....Tim Harrell  
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**Dir., Cherub Choir**.....Jenn Blumenstock  
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**Treasurer** .....Douglas McArthur  
**Sexton**.....Bill Burke  
**Sunday Sexton** .....Brian Carr

Trinity Episcopal Church  
 6587 Upper York Road, P.O. Box 377  
 Solebury, PA 18963  
 215-297-5135  
[www.trinitysolebury.org](http://www.trinitysolebury.org)  
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6587 Upper York Road, P.O. Box 377  
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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



*Join us for  
Holiday Fun*

on  
December 3rd

*Breakfast with St.  
Nicholas*

McArthur Hall  
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

*Holiday Country Store*

Chapel  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Holiday Raffle at 12:30 p.m.

*Walk-Ins Welcome!*



JOIN US TO CELEBRATE  
THE BIRTH  
OF OUR LORD!



**Christmas Eve Services**

5:00 p.m.  
Family Service  
8:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.  
Candlelight Service

**Christmas Day**

10:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist

