

150 Years

TRINITY TIMES

A Winter's Tale



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This is the time of year when we pay particular attention to Luke's narrative of Jesus' birth. Luke wants to make it clear to all that the birth of the Messiah, the Christ, was among the poor and in humble circumstances. Born in a stable, laid in a manger, surrounded by shepherds, Jesus makes noble the homes of the poor.

Half of all the homeless have no access to health care. The emergency room is their only option, some visiting as many as 100 times a year. In the existing shelters, there are on average 110 children every night.

If the Gospel we read so tenderly at Christmas is true, it is Christ who dwells with each of the real human beings that make up these statistics. Work continues to re-open Sarah's Hope in the County so that we can do our part to provide a stable in which Christ can lay his head, at least for a few homeless families, and to extend to them every dignity that our Christianity demands. Right now, every facility for the homeless in the County is run by a religious or community-based organization. The numbers in this report demand that the County stand with the churches and provide direct shelter services to the growing number of homeless among us. Right now there is not only no room in the inn; there is no room in the stable either. What are the homeless to do? What is Christ to do?

Trinity has supported the Club at Collington Square over the years, and the Club, an after-school program, now resides in one of the row houses we helped to purchase on Mura Street through the Slated for the Future capital campaign.

Casey, a 14-year-old member of the Club, lived with her bed-ridden grandmother and five-year-old niece. Recently, the row house where they lived was destroyed by fire. The grandmother and niece died in the fire. Casey, at 14, has no family and no home. But, thank God, she has the Club and the watchful care of Episcopal Community Services, which labor to see that Casey has a safe place to live, a new family, and a second chance. A stable lamp is lighted in Collington Square, whose glow shall wake the sky, and straw like gold will shine. For if a barn can harbor heaven, and a stable can become a shrine, then our care for Casey is nothing less than love divine. — *from Jim Ransom*



The
Trinity
Times

So, consider these statistics that were released at an ecumenical gathering of church leaders with the County Office of Community Conservation and the Baltimore County Coalition for the Homeless. As of November 2008, 8,728 adults and children have been turned away from homeless shelters for lack of space. One out of every five homeless families has employment full time, but at minimum wage. They need to work 155 hours a week to afford a two-bedroom apartment. Seventy percent of the chronically homeless in Baltimore County are women and children, about 4,500 individuals. Security deposits and credit issues are substantial barriers to finding affordable housing.

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January Birthdays:

January 2 - Jean Close, 3 - Christopher Adler, Peggy King, Alexandra Preston, 4 - Regina Hogarth, 5 - Kimberly Carter, 6 - William Hibbs, 8 - Pont Hall, 9 - Christopher Preston, 10 - Jennifer Culp, Joyce Routson, 12 - Anna Graham, Ann Peterson, 12 - James Thierer, 13 - Daniel McShane, 14 - Gregg Morris, Annette Turk, 15 - Dixie Shelhoss, 16 - Julia Weber, 17 - Daniel Morthole, Hannah Preston, 18 - Dar- rick DeBoard, 19 - Jessica Warthen, 20 - Talia Marziale, 21 - Kristin Iwanicki, Mark Nichol- son, 26 - James Pessagno, Caroline Vocci, Wil- son Williams, 27 - Patricia Albornoz, Gail Ed- wards, 28 - Paul Rommel, 30 - John Carter, Thomas Hudson, Mary Hughes, Helen Mozal, 31 - Ethel Felber, James Horne



January Anniversaries:

January 4 - James and Phyllis Weatherly, 8 - Robert and Betty Denison, 14 - Dar- rick and Lisa DeBoard, 18 - Betty and William Phillips, 27 - Elinor and Asa Grammes, 30 - William and Betty Lou Traband

Baptisms:

On November 23rd:

Julia Ann Finamore

Rowan Elizabeth Schell

Transfer:

Sarah Schell, from St. John's, Mt. Washington

Death:

On December 30 –

Betty Cunningham



The Surprise Shop

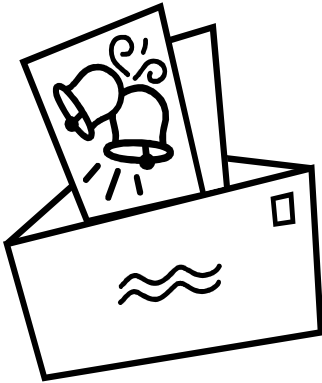
Time to Consign!

Make room for all of those new Christmas gifts by bringing in your gently used items that are in the way.

We happily take donations too!

When you stop in make sure you shop our New Year's SALE!!!

You'll be "Surprised" at what you might find!



**THE RECTOR, WARDENS AND VESTRY
OF TRINITY CHURCH**

cordially invite

**THOSE MARRIED AT TRINITY CHURCH
TO AN OBSERVANCE OF THEIR MARRIAGE
ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2009
AT THE 11:00 A.M. SERVICE.**

**A RECEPTION HONORING THOSE IN ATTEN-
DANCE WILL FOLLOW THE SERVICE.**



Well for the Journey Announces Programs for the New Year

Let your Journey Speak: Writing a Spiritual Autobiography

A workshop in writing your Spiritual Autobiography, based upon the ordinary everyday experiences of your life.

Leader: Alan Evans

Introductory Workshop – Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009 (9:30-11:30 a.m.)

6 Week Workshop - Thursdays, Jan. 29 – March 5 (9:30-11:30 a.m.) at The Well Center, Towson

Mystics on Tuesday: Howard Thurman

Leader: The Right Rev. Eugene Sutton, Bishop of Maryland

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2009 (1:00-2:30 p.m. **OR** 7:30-9:00 p.m.)

The Diocesan Center, 4 East University Pkwy., Baltimore, MD

When the Heart Waits

Thursdays, Jan. 8 to Feb. 26, 2009 (7:30- 9:00 p.m.) at The Well Center, Towson,

Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?

The second part of a two-part article responding to those who hunger for a clearer sense of who Jesus Christ is and what he means for their lives.

In the first article, I explored a dizzying array of identities for Jesus that have a place in popular Christian culture today. We have experienced all of them right here at Trinity in a variety of ways. Now I hope to take a deeper look, joining those Greeks who came to the disciples and said, “We wish to see Jesus (John 12:20-21).” What follows are seven aspects that flesh out a reliable identity of Jesus Christ that can impact and change our faith and our lives. This is the real Jesus who stands up among us.

Jesus Christ is the Risen Jesus Christ. As Paul writes in Romans, “just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4).” The implications of this truth about Jesus are enormous. God has acted in history for our salvation in Christ. Jesus can be known by you and me as the living Lord of the church and of the whole creation, and we can live the ways of his kingdom. Jesus’ resurrection has revealed God’s active intention to make all things new. Jesus’ resurrection is the decisive clue to understanding and living in the life-giving power of Jesus, as we await the day of his coming.

Jesus can be encountered in the community of his people, the Body of Christ, the church. It says in Ephesians 5:30, “We are members of his body.” This is more than metaphor. A healing, reassuring, forgiving, life-giving encounter with Christ takes place in the church’s unlocking of the Scriptures, in the preaching of the Word, in the Sacraments and in the life of service within the Community of Faith. This claim is grounded in Scripture and in the experience of the church across time. The presence of Jesus among us is almost always experienced as disturbing, unsettling, even controversial, because Jesus calls people to costly service and to a changed life. This is the message of Jesus in Matthew 25:40, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these ... you did it to me,” or in Luke 14:27, “Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

The identity of Jesus is reliably attested to and known in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. The New Testament emerged from the life and worship of the earliest church as definitive and reliable witness to Jesus. Likewise, Jesus’ teaching and his life make sense only within the context of Israel’s history and the Hebrew Scriptures. Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish, but to fulfill (Matthew 5:17).” Attempts to discredit the New Testament as artificially imposed by emperor or council, or that texts within the New Testament are inauthentic, need to be resisted, as does the notion that Jesus is at odds with Judaism or displaces the witness of the Old Testament.

Stand up Continued ~

The entire canon of Scripture is necessary to a faithful rendering of Jesus' identity. This is a critical truth for Christians to know and embrace. We cannot read one Gospel, for instance, to the exclusion of any of the others, or one text as more reliable or authentic than another, or pit one Scripture passage against another. The New Testament writers, as the creeds, repeatedly insist that the significance of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is to be understood "in accordance with the scriptures. (I Corinthians 5:3)."

The identity of Jesus continues to be interpreted and informed by the ongoing life and tradition of the church. The identity of Jesus is disclosed in part through Jesus' impact on many generations of Christians who have served Christ and worshiped him, as well as through the reflections of the church's theologians and teachers. There is always a temptation to replace this ageless wisdom with more "scientific" modes of knowing. But Jesus' identity is inseparable from the great cloud of witnesses who have known him and served him. We also trick ourselves into wanting one simple way to think about Jesus, when it is a rich privilege through our tradition to be able to speak about Jesus in several ways and through the eyes of others. We read Scripture in the company of many others and in a community of interpretation and reflection as the Spirit enables us.

In the preceding remarks, it becomes clear that to know Jesus is to be continually engaged in the practice of deep and sustained reading of the texts with others. When we do, we soon discover that Jesus' identity comes to us chiefly in stories, parables, sayings, and the narration of events that over time become part of who we are as we become part of who Jesus is.

Paul writes in Philippians that, "I want to know Christ, and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death (Philippians 3:10)." Discovering the identity of Jesus is a costly and lifelong process of serious and patient discovery as we conform ourselves to the pattern of his life. This demands our all.

It is just in this way that, according to his promise, the real and authentic Jesus stands gloriously among us, showing us his hands and his side, and we know that "It is the Lord."

I am indebted in the writing of this article to the new book, *Seeking the Identity of Jesus: A Pilgrimage*, edited by Beverly R. Gaventa and Richard B. Hays, available through Eerdmans. –
from Jim Ransom

Tuesday Bible Class 2009
Begins Tuesday, January 13, 2009
Led by The Rev. James C. Ransom

WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE?

Do Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly With Your God

Class begins a 10:30 a.m. in the Peel Library and goes until Noon.

The Class is preceded by Morning Prayer in the Church at 10:00 a.m.

In the concluding presentation of *Eclipsing Empire* (the Fall 2008 Bible Class). John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg made a strong plea for a Christian parish community participating with and in the Risen Christ to be the first fruits, the inbreaking, of the Kingdom Christ proclaimed. They suggested that the place to start was with a Bible Study of Amos and Micah, claiming their message through the eyes of Jesus and for the renewing of the Church. This seemed like a perfect way to continue what we have been studying and to celebrate Trinity's 150 years. What does the Lord require of us now?

In order to listen to Amos and Micah as the Word of the incarnate and risen Christ, it will be helpful to read the prophets alongside Jesus' own teaching in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1 — 7:29). Rather than link passages from Amos and Micah to passages from Matthew's Gospel, we will read each in course. As a class, then, we can make our own connections and contradictions as seems appropriate.

AMOS

In the eighth century before Christ, Israel was experiencing a time of high prosperity. But prosperity brought with it social, moral, and economic corruption which was abhorrent to Amos, who came from the poorer Kingdom of Judah, and was himself a humble shepherd and grower of figs. Amos spares nothing in pointing out injustice, and declares on God's behalf, Israel's certain doom. As it happens, Israel experienced the devastating conquest of the Assyrians in 722 BCE.

Tempering these harsh words are passages that suggest that a change of heart might occur in time to save Israel from judgment, and the prophet declares that God's love for Israel surpasses the people's ability to go wrong.

Amos says of himself that he is not in the mold of other prophets, but that the powerful vision he received from God, and his own experience of injustice have joined to compel him to speak.

The task of the Bible Class will be to read these ancient words as the words of Christ, relate Amos to Jesus' teaching, and experience Christ teaching us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

MICAH

This book is a collection of prophecies, only some of which are contemporary with Amos, others as late as after the Exile (525 BCE). The book's purpose seems to be to gather together prophetic voices around the theme of God's care for Israel. When God's people succumb to corruption and pride, God cares by warning and punishing. When God's people are in despair, God encourages and restores them. Both ways of caring reveal God's glorious compassion.

God is concerned about the quality of human existence. God cares about justice. God cares about people's sin, and God acts to bring correction and restoration. God cares about injustice and devastation and acts to bring God's people freedom and peace. The collection of texts swings back and forth from judgment to hope and back again.

Music:



Proposed Vocal Music for the 11:00 a.m. Services:

January 11 : Take me to the Water, spiritual—choir

The Lord Bless you and your Children, J.S. Bach—duet

January 18: Kings in Glory, M. Shaw—choir with tenor solo

Lullaby, R. Thompson—soprano solo

January 25: This Little Light of Mine, spiritual—choir with piano

Jesus Shepherd Be Thou Known to Me, J.S. Bach—baritone solo

February 1: Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name, spiritual—choir

Alleluia, Amen, J.S. Bach, soprano/alto duet

February 8: What Can I Give Him? Holst-Schinzet, choir

The Lord My Shepherd Is and True, J. Holder—soprano solo

February 15: Epiphany Alleluia Six, R.W. Glock—choir women

Let Thy Work Appear, R. Nelson—baritone solo

February 22: (Transfiguration) Once Upon a Mountain Top, M. Hewlett, arr. R.W. Glock

Sanctus, C. Gounod—tenor solo and choir

We welcome into the choir George Wilkerson, Jamie Jordon, and Chloe Adler. We continue to pray for 3 women and 2 men to come serve in the choir, thus reaching what we perceive as our needed goal of a 23 voice, full sounding ensemble. Rehearsals will continue to be on Sunday mornings starting at 9:15 a.m. in the Guild Room.

Heartfelt thanks to all choir singers, soloists and instrumentalists for the very inspiring worship music in the Advent-Christmas season.

R. Glock—Choirmaster-Organist

150th Anniversary Special Dates

Please save the dates for the following events:

Sunday, February 15 - Blessing of the Tartans

In addition, at this service we will recognize members who were married at Trinity.

Saturday, May 9 - Final evening gala celebration for adults - More information will be forthcoming.

Thursday, May 21 - Ascension Day activity - inviting other parishes and past assistants for an evening service with the Presiding Bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori.

Notes:

Thanks to all members and friends who have helped in our efforts to date.

The following events have already occurred: Opening Luncheon, Banner carried in the 4th of July parade, Library Display, Maryland State Boychoir Concert and Souvenir sale. By the way the banners are now hanging in the front and in the back the Parish House and also a welcome banner hanging at the front entrance of the church.

In the planning stages: Historical written history of Trinity to be combined into a new updated volume, tree planting for the front of the Church and Parish Hall (to replace the diseased ones that had to be removed awhile ago leaving a complete visual/shade void).

We would like to see more attendance from everyone to make all of these events successful.

Should anyone have suggestions for an event please contact me as there are only six months left before completing our 150th celebration.

Jack Weber - Chairman

***The next time you're in the Towson Library, be sure to visit Trinity's 150th Anniversary Exhibit in a display case near the computers on the mezzanine level. The exhibit's attractive wrap-around backdrop was designed by Kate Wolf and the photos are from Trinity's archives and on loan from the Library's files.

--Lawson Walsh for the 150th Anniversary Committee

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 12 :00p.m. - Eucharist service	2	3 6:00p.m. - Rehearsal & dinner for Rite 13, youth & parents
4 8:00a.m. - Eucharist 10:00a.m. - Eucharist service & Rite 13 ceremony	5 7:30p.m. - Faith & Service Task Group	6 10:00a.m. - prayer 10:30a.m. - Bible class 5:30 - family choir	7 6:30p.m. - Education for Ministry 7:30p.m. - Bible Class	8 12 :00p.m. - Eucharist/Healing service	9	10
11 8:00a.m. - Eucharist 9:00a.m. - Eucharist 10:00a.m. - Education 11:00a.m. - Eucharist	12 Newsletter Deadline	13 10:00a.m. - prayer 10:30a.m. - Bible class 5:30 - family choir 6:30p.m. - Finance	14 6:30 - Education for Ministry 7:30p.m. - Bible Class	15 12 :00p.m. - Eucharist/Healing service	16	17 Vestry Day
18 8:00a.m. - Eucharist 9:00a.m. - Eucharist 10:00a.m. - Education 11:00a.m. - Eucharist	19	20 10:00a.m. - prayer 10:30a.m. - Bible Class 5:30p.m. - family choir 7:00p.m. - Building & Nurturing Group	21 6:30p.m. - Education for Ministry 7:30p.m. - Bible Class	22 12:00p.m. - Eucharist/Healing service	23	24
25 8:00a.m. - Eucharist 9:00a.m. - Eucharist 10:00a.m. - Education 11:00a.m. - Eucharist	26	27 10:00a.m. - prayer 10:30a.m. - Bible Class 5:30p.m. - family choir	28 6:30p.m. - Education for Ministry 7:30p.m. - Bible Class	29 12:00p.m. - Eucharist/Healing service	30	31 

Services At Trinity Church

Sunday:

8:00 a.m. Eucharist

9:00 a.m. Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Education

11:00 a.m. Eucharist

2:00 p.m. Korean Language Service



Thursday:

12:00 noon Eucharist/Healing Service



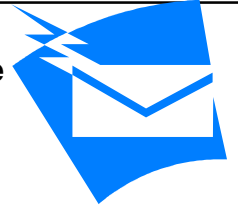
Trinity Episcopal Children's Center

A Day Care and Pre-School
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Serving Children 2 years to 5 years old
From 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday, all year
Enroll now. Call 410-823-3589.

The Trinity Times February newsletter deadline will be January 12

Share the good news about Trinity
people, programs and events.
Leave news in the church office
or e-mail articles to sandyhibbs@aol.com



Trinity Church

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Trinity's Mission

Trinity Episcopal Church is an inclusive and caring Christ-centered community nurtured by our worship and tradition. We ask God to strengthen and guide us as we live out our mission to welcome and celebrate the diversity of all people through spiritual education, growth in faith, and service in Christ's Name.