

**Trinity
Episcopal
Church**



One in Faith.
Strong in Love.
Bold in Mission.

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The Rev. Michael Randolph
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Trinity

Times

December 2008

NOTES FOR THE JOURNEY

BY THE REV. ANNE KELSEY

It is a raw and clumsy time, this particular season of Advent. Even if the weather isn't dreary, even if the economy weren't shaky, few of us approach the coming celebration of Christmas with unmixed feelings and a desire to launch wholeheartedly into cheer. Merriment may be the word that describes the parties, but it is the word "cry" which really resonates. The cry of the watchman who sees someone coming from a great distance floats over a sleeping town. The urgent and distressing cry of the infant needing to be fed is hard to ignore. The cry of John the Baptist who comes out of the desert to pace by the Jordan River has an urgency bordering on fear. All these touch the cry within us, welling up unbidden during a season that should, by all accounts, be unmitigated happiness.

The seasonal emphasis on gaiety, brightness, and conviviality only serves to highlight the truth, which is that we are fragile and lonely, and all too aware of our deep and aching need for love and healing. Advent opens the canyons of our souls, which we have kept safely out of sight. Broken promises, dreams crumbled into dust, loves lost, wounded bodies and spirits – these we bear heroically every day. Then, at the notes of the first Christmas carol it seems that they are all exposed and more painful than before. We are more needy than we want to admit, more dependent than we think is decent.

But it is exactly into the rubble of broken places God wants to come. God chose to be born in what could only have been a very primitive and dangerous place to people nobody would bother remembering. The promise is that God will continue to make that same choice – to come to all that is dark, poor, and needy. God chooses to be born in us, weak and sinful as we are, and as much as we hardly dare to believe the fantastic promise that Christ will really be savior, healer, and great comforter. Yet each year we dare ourselves to hope once more, expecting the long-awaited Jesus to come and fill our hearts.

The world is a strange inn, and Christ arrives without invitation but not without notice. How he arrives and when he arrives we cannot know, so we wait. May our waiting be blessed as our joy at his incarnation will be blessed when we finally stand at the stable door at Christmas to see his dear face smiling for us.

Blessings,

Anne+

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

December 7th Bishop's Visit

We will gather for one service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 7th, for the parish visitation of the Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith. Bishop Smith will baptize Jonathon Steinke and John Sirko-Carney, and confirm Julia Kleinheider, Tom Kirk III, and Joan Edmonds. He will receive into the Episcopal Church Eden Harris, Suzanne Sirko-Carney, and Tom Shea. There will be a festive reception following the service, then a forum with the Bishop in the church. Please be sure and join us for this very festive occasion!

Children's Service and the Jesse Tree

Please join us at 9:15 a.m. December 14 in the north parish hall for the December children's service, which will include the decoration of the Jesse Tree and the telling of the nativity story. A snack and craft activity for children and parents follows the service, and all are welcome.

This long-standing tradition is an opportunity to learn about some of the symbols from the Hebrew scriptures which are important parts of the story of the birth of Jesus. A snack and a craft activity for families follows the service, so please join us!

When Christmas is Blue

Some people dread the holidays. Not because they don't like to give or get presents. Not because they dislike parties, or decorated trees or cute children. Nor do they want to deny others some holiday cheer, like the bitter Scrooge of Dicken's play. Some dread this time for good reason: it brings up so much that is painful, unresolved, or full of grief. If you are having a difficult time coping with the holidays you are invited to come for an evening of conversation, sharing, and prayer on **Tuesday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m.** No need for advance notice – just come, and bring a friend too.

Hanging of the Greens

On Dec. 21st right after the 10:30 Mass we will have the traditional Hanging of the Greens. Come and get in the Christmas spirit as we decorate the church with pine roping and poinsettias. It's a great way to get to know other people. Though we are ably assisted by Curtis, we need several volunteers. We need one person who is comfortable on the extension ladder to hang the pine boughs and bows along with another person who ensures that the ladder is held steady. We need a person to hand

up the beautiful red satin bows. We need people to carry poinsettias from the North Parish Hall and set them on the sides of the altar steps. We need someone to hang greens and bows on the outside lights. Others can assist with dusting and setting up the crèche. Please contact Kate Worland if you can help with this festive opportunity for service. If someone wanted to bring a tray of cheese and crackers, that would be nice too.

Christmas Eve

4 p.m. Family Service

10 p.m. Lessons and Carols

10:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

COMING UP

Film and Fellowship

Film and Fellowship meets **Tuesday, Dec. 9, at 6:30 p.m.** in North Parish Hall. We'll discuss *Milk*, Edward Zwick's biopic about Harvey Milk, the first openly-gay person elected to San Francisco's board of supervisors. The film makes good use of newsreels and showcases Sean Penn in the title role, but is it as good a historical film as *Frost/Nixon*?

If there's time, we'll also talk about *I've Loved You So Long*, a marvelous French film about sisters, starring Kristen Scott Thomas.

Bring finger foods to share, *s'il vous plait*.

Book Club

James Joyce's novella, *The Dead* (part of *The Dubliners*) will be the topic of discussion at Jeanie Frazee's condo **Saturday, December 13 at 7 p.m.** January's book will be *Run*, by Ann Patchett, and for February the selection will be Doris Kearns Goodwin's *Team of Rivals*. Dates and locations to be determined.

Gateway Men's Chorus Concert

PEACE ONEARTH, December 12 & 13, 8 p.m. at Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 Union Ave. Tickets (\$23 and \$28) available at www.gatewaymenschorus.org or from Dick Woodhouse.

Art Exhibits, Current and Upcoming

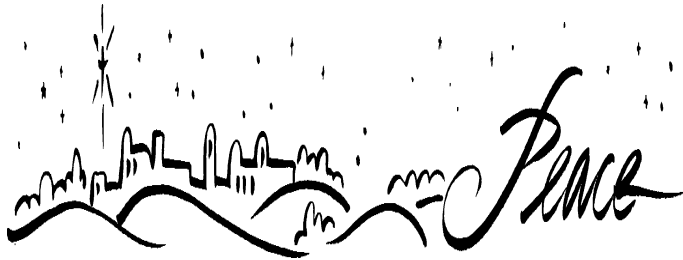
AIDS Now: Leadership Now is the theme for Trinity's next art exhibit, opening on **January 18th, through March 1** with submissions accepted on January 4th and 11th. Visual art in all media, poetry, scored music, prayers...all are accepted (with a wire on the back for wall installation). Unfortunately, we have no pedestals for three dimensional work. Please include a typed card with your name, title of the piece, medium, and a brief statement about your piece if you wish. There is no fee, one need not be a member of Trinity to submit art, and all are welcome to the opening reception on January 18th following the 10:30 service. The only requirement is **INSPIRATION!**

Creation, Spirituality and Environment will be up through **December 14** in the South Parish Hall.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Bill Ramsey of the Human Rights Action Service will be visiting Trinity during coffee hour on the next Social Action **Sunday, December 7**.

The Human Rights Action Service (HRAS) provides its subscribers and Justice and Peace Shares Shareholders(JPS) with personalized, monthly letters responding to international and domestic human rights violations and sends them to the appropriate official at the right time. HRAS also publishes monthly human rights Buyer's Guides and Media Watches for subscribers and JPS shareholders. The Buyer's Guide is a monthly fact sheet offering timely information on how to use one's purchasing power to support Fair Trade enterprises and challenge sweatshop labor conditions around the world. The latest issue of the Buyer's Guide focuses on Fair Trade alternatives for holiday gifts.



WORLD AIDS DAY

SAVING THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN

By *Barbi Click*

How do we talk to these sudden strangers who out of the blue stand eyeball to eyeball with us? It is difficult to get information about school much less to talk about something as dark and private as S E X.

What do we know about AIDS/HIV? Not enough. For instance, do you know that St. Louis has a teen pregnancy rate that is 1.5 times higher than the national average and the highest rates of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea infections? Do you know that as these rates rise, so does the infection rate of HIV/AIDS?

Educating ourselves is the first thing that we must do. Know the ways HIV is spread. This is not something that happens to "other people". We cannot allow ignorance to keep us from this task, for if we do, their lives – our lives – may change drastically and forever. Get informed – Today.

Then schedule a time to talk. Everything in our lives is scheduled; this is more important than other things. Tell your youth about puberty – about the natural changes his/her body is going through. Do not act shocked at her questions or his revelations. Don't forget to *Listen* when she/he speaks. Use adult language when talking about sex. Forget about whether or not a youth should or should not engage in sex. Be honest. Remind your youth that his/her feelings are natural.

You decide when your child is ready. Don't wait on him to ask. Teach her how to protect herself. Our children will get information from someone – don't trust another person with your youth's life.

Barbi Click is Director of Christian Education (youth and children) at Christ Church Cathedral



FOOD MINISTRY CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE SOUTH PARISH HALL AFTER SERVICES UNTIL CHRISTMAS!

Warm winter clothing is distributed Tuesday - Thursday during the food pantry. If you have sweaters, hats, gloves, jackets, coats and scarves you no longer use they will be greatly appreciated. New socks are always welcome this time of the year as well.

TRINITY FOOD MINISTRY

It's Thanksgiving time. As the one who coordinates our parish's food ministry to the poor, I give thanks for all those who support this important ministry.

Volunteers from our parish and friends of the parish support the food pantry by coming in every week to register clients and fill food orders. Not only do these volunteers distribute food, but they also give a friendly greeting and conversation.

Additional volunteers from our parish make the trip each week to the Bread Company in south city to bring fresh bread to the pantry. Our clients look forward to receiving bread and pastries.

Ten churches, including our own parish, regularly participate in the hot lunch program, cooking the meals and serving our neighbors. In addition, other groups occasionally prepare and serve as a special one time mission. Our neighbors who come to eat are grateful for a hot meal on a cold day.

Trinity parishioners are most generous in offering financial support to the food ministry. Other churches, especially St. Timothy's Episcopal Church and the Church of St. Michael and St. George, are generous financial supporters.

Food comes from many sources. In addition to Trinity parishioners, churches in our diocese, other churches, business groups, the Boy Scout Food Drive, and the children at Old Bonhomme School through their annual Giving Assembly donate cans regularly.

Clothing is donated by a wide variety of folks – including former Trinity parishioners Jim and Elsie Richardson who sent two boxes of used clothing from their retirement home in Massachusetts.

In St. Paul's first letter to the believers at Corinth, he says that we are servants of our Lord working together to build God's kingdom. Using a metaphor, he says that one has planted a seed, another watered, but it is God who had given the fruit of our labors. That is Trinity Food Ministry – each of us works together to serve the poor and thus show God's love to our neighbors in the Central West End.

- Steve Turner

THE GREEN CORNER

Eco-Spirit Gifts for a Green Holiday, from the Environment and Spirituality Committee

“Normal-sized” Gifts:

- Advent candles
- Those energy-conserving lightbulbs (recycle at Home Depots!)
- A gift certificate to the Local Harvest Grocery Store/Cafe on Morganford
- A rechargeable battery set
- A window-box set of herbs, for winter growing
- Live Christmas tree or Rosemary (Home Depot)
- A raw foods cookbook (for health and to save energy in cooking)
- A drying rack for laundry
- Cloth Napkins: reuse and recycle!
- A gift from www.changingthepresent.org/-environment/gifts
- A cloth bag--or two or three!--for groceries!!
- A kinetic (shakeable) flashlight
- Portable solar charger (available on the internet)
- An electric water kettle (uses less energy than heating water on stove)
- Light reusable plates (to take to Trinity potlucks?)
- Accessories for bikes (lights, locks, safety gear)
- A bird feeder or a bird house
- Books on how to live locally (recommended: *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver)
- Seeds for children (or adults?) to plant

And for those very special people in our lives:

- A Scooter (hardly any gas)
- A Bicycle
- An energy-efficient appliance
- Energy-efficient windows
- A Programmable Thermostat
- A Kindle (non-paper book reader) from Amazon.com
- A solar oven
- A Greenhouse

Looking outwards:

- Sweaters and coats (and hats and gloves) for the Trinity Food Ministry clients
- A donation to the Food Ministry, in Honor of the Earth
- A donation to the Arbor Day Foundation
- A gift to Episcopal Relief & Development (www.er-d.org)

A REFLECTION ON THE RECENT ELECTION

By Alice Walker, from *The Root.com*, forwarded by Kate Haggans

Dear Brother Obama,

You have no idea, really, of how profound this moment is for us. Us being the black people of the Southern United States. You think you know, because you are thoughtful, and you have studied our history. But seeing you deliver the torch so many others before you carried, year after year, decade after decade, century after century, only to be struck down before igniting the flame of justice and of law, is almost more than the heart can bear. And yet, this observation is not intended to burden you, for you are of a different time, and, indeed, because of all the relay runners before you, North America is a different place. It is really only to say: Well done. We knew, through all the generations, that you were with us, in us, the best of the spirit of Africa and of the Americas. Knowing this, that you would actually appear, someday, was part of our strength. Seeing you take your rightful place, based solely on your wisdom, stamina and character, is a balm for the weary warriors of hope, previously only sung about.

I would advise you to remember that you did not create the disaster that the world is experiencing, and you alone are not responsible for bringing the world back to balance. A primary responsibility that you do have, however, is to cultivate happiness in your own life. To make a schedule that permits sufficient time of rest and play with your gorgeous wife and lovely daughters. And so on. One gathers that your family is large. We are used to seeing men in the White House soon become juiceless and as white-haired as the building; we notice their wives and children looking strained and stressed. They soon have smiles so lacking in joy that they remind us of scissors. This is no way to lead. Nor does your family deserve this fate. One way of thinking about all this is: It is so bad now that there is no excuse not to relax. From your happy, relaxed state, you can model real success, which is all that so many people in the world really want. They may buy endless cars and houses and furs and gobble up all the attention and space they can manage, or barely manage, but this is because it is not yet clear to them that success is truly an inside job. That it is within the reach of almost everyone.

I would further advise you not to take on other people's enemies. Most damage that others do to us is out of fear, humiliation and pain. Those feelings occur in all

of us, not just in those of us who profess a certain religious or racial devotion. We must learn actually not to have enemies, but only confused adversaries who are ourselves in disguise. It is understood by all that you are commander in chief of the United States and are sworn to protect our beloved country; this we understand, completely. However, as my mother used to say, quoting a Bible with which I often fought, "hate the sin, but love the sinner." There must be no more crushing of whole communities, no more torture, no more dehuman-izing as a means of ruling a people's spirit. This has already happened to people of color, poor people, women, children. We see where this leads, where it has led.

A good model of how to "work with the enemy" internally is presented by the Dalai Lama, in his endless caretaking of his soul as he confronts the Chinese government that invaded Tibet. Because, finally, it is the soul that must be preserved, if one is to remain a credible leader. All else might be lost; but when the soul dies, the connection to earth, to peoples, to animals, to rivers, to mountain ranges, purple and majestic, also dies. And your smile, with which we watch you do gracious battle with unjust characterizations, distortions and lies, is that expression of healthy self-worth, spirit and soul, that, kept happy and free and relaxed, can find an answering smile in all of us, lighting our way, and brightening the world.

We are the ones we have been waiting for.

In Peace and Joy,

Alice Walker

- Alice Walker has written at length on issues of race and gender, and is most famous for the critically acclaimed novel *The Color Purple*, for which she won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

John Drescher was honored by the board of directors of the St. Louis Psychoanalytic Institute for 30 years of service, which included serving as president and vice-president of development, among other duties. "John has generously given of his time, wisdom and leadership in support of psychoanalytic treatment, training and investigation," the Institute's announcement said.

John Works ran into **Dick Gregory** at the airport and said, "I know who you are, you're **Joan Gregory's** brother-in-law." The activist/comedian shot back, "I know who you are, you go to that crazy Trinity church!"

THANKS TO TRINITY'S ANGELS OF HELP, HOPE, AND HEALING

As a year comes to a close, one takes inventory of the events of the past year, taking stock of the blessings for which one has cause to give thanks. Well, the dominating event of my life in 2008 was breaking four bones in my left foot on July 3rd. Then, in the two months while the bones were healing, an infection set in requiring a second operation September 18th, extending the healing time another couple of months. While it is difficult to be grateful for the pain, inconvenience, and helplessness that I went through, without it I would not have experienced the many acts of kindness for which I am truly thankful.

That first night home after the first operation, as I slowly realized that I could not manage on my own as I thought I would, I fell into a despair that I can only describe as hellish. I felt so helpless that all I could do was to curl up as best I could, and rock myself in my bed, singing over and over in my head, "Jesus loves me, this I know." So the next morning, when the phone rang, and someone from Trinity said they would be over with lunch, I knew I had been touched by an angel. Over time, many Trinity angels helped me in many ways. Some aid addressed physical needs such as meals and treats, a daily ice supply for the swelling and inflammation, periodic transportation to and from the doctor or hospital, and some housekeeping chores. Some help addressed emotional and spiritual needs with calls, cards, notes, reading material, and of course prayers – words of comfort and cheer, strength and encouragement. As I got better, I especially appreciated the cheering conversations about others and outside events, helping me to escape the exile of self-absorption with my ordeal.

Because so much was spent on me in time, effort, and money for which there is insufficient record to allow me to fairly reciprocate, all I can do is merely and humbly express my gratitude to everyone. But also realizing that blessings are like a heavenly form of chain-letter and one must pass them along to realize the full value, during this time of Thanksgiving I am making a special contribution to the Trinity Food Ministry. This is to acknowledge and share the blessings of food I received. As for the other deeds of kindness, I must make an effort to be open to future opportunities to do similar kindnesses for others in need, so that someday by such deeds I too might be considered an angel from Trinity.

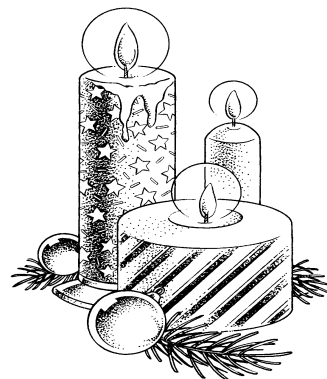
Thank you.

Al Adams

Our snowbird, **Billie Harris**, was toasted at the Ritz by a group of her early morning buddies before she left Trinity for her winter in Sarasota. While in Sarasota, she attends St. Boniface Episcopal Church which she has chosen to be her winter parish after a bit of church shopping there. She gives us hints that she misses us while in this church, however. She might find her eyes attracted to, as she puts it, "some of the finest flowers that money can buy", for example, and feel a twinge of homesick nostalgia thinking of **Jim Pfaff's** arrangements at Trinity. She notices that the people are friendly and giving of themselves like the folks at Trinity but she also notes that the color and panache so evident at Trinity is missing there. We wish Billie a *bon voyage* and Godspeed on her return to us in the spring.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Dave van Bakergem
3	Jim Andris
6	Martha Baker
11	Justin Worland
12	Carrie Weber
15	Kate Ayre
17	Bob Barrett Joe Palecek
18	Vander Corliss
19	Jennifer Mueller
20	Bill Layher
22	Matthew Owings
23	Bill Mayhan
24	Duncan McArthur
25	Sandra Knaebel Martha Ficklen
26	Nancy Cadenhead
28	Dave Hilditch



IN OUR PRAYERS

We keep in our prayers those who are ill or in need:

Emma Johnson, now in hospice care; Camilleann Nelson, now in hospice care; Michael Bentz, bladder cancer; Jeanie Ader, recovering from surgery; Pat Way, recovering from knee surgery; Georgiana Cameron; Alex Cadenhead, recovering from hand surgery; Al Adams; Nancy Cadenhead, breast cancer; Joan Edmonds; Sallie Fuhri; John Drescher; Dee Scott; Eldright White

...and those with ongoing challenges: Kayte Foxworth, Margaret Kane, Mary Moore, Betsey Gardner, Joan Dunbar, Dick Weber, Jackie Judd

All who work for justice and peace: Kathi McDonald at St. George's College in Jerusalem.

Serving in the military: Chuck Clement, Chad Clement, Patricia Roddy Jones, Andrew Bredow, Scott Lehrmann, Jim Hall, Martin Burkart, Keith Burkart, Craig Hickerson, JonMichael Bentz, John Worland, Tony Elkin, and Jeff Holzbauer

Family Members: Hannah Fox, Jeff Wunrow's second-cousin, cystic fibrosis; Briana Williams, Ann Watts' granddaughter, recently hospitalized; Pat and Wes Haggans; Anne Judd, Jackie Judd's mother, ovarian cancer; John Dalzell; Joseph Schmidt (and family), nephew of Georgiana Cameron, in prison awaiting sentencing; Dan Clement, Alexah Strongheart's cousin, cancer; Janet Flanders, Alexah Strongheart's cousin, cancer; John Miller, Jim Pfaff's brother-in-law, recovering from a stroke; Michael (Tony) Reece, Jackie Judd's son, Barrett's

esophagus; William Edwards, Jane Edwards' grand-nephew, bi-polar; Gini Gardner, Betsey Gardner's mother, mourning; Adele Holloman, Mary Ellen Anderson's sister; Christopher Edwards, Jane Edward's nephew, and Beth Edwards; Warren Frank Moseley, Cynthia Fox's son

Friends: John Gillis, friend of Barbara Ritchey; Eula John, friend of Jan Parker; Hugh Gwyn, friend of Julien Worland; Jamie Jack, friend of Jan Parker; David Willers, friend of Gil Fisher, colon surgery; Rebecca Barnard, friend of Jim Pfaff; Charles Perkins; Joe Duggan, friend of Helen Hendry, cancer; Gayle Birdsong, friend of Hazel Kirk; Bill Russell, kidney and heart problems; Ruth Ehresman, friend of Gil Fisher, cancer; Guy S. Little, Jr, friend of Gil Fisher, loss of a loved one; Willow Pastard; Danny Porter, friend of Greg Smith, stroke; Ed Etheredge, friend of Virginia Benson; Caroline Wohlforth, cancer; Jim Bourne, friend of Gil Fisher, prostate cancer; Chris Ferry, friend of Jim Pfaff, cancer; Frank Warthen, friend of Brian Alms; Lexie Cunningham, lung transplant, and her grandmother Jeannine Houchin; Mary Russell, friend of Joan Dunbar, hip replacement; Lillye Bryant, friend of Joan Dunbar, liver problems; Ethelyn Davis, friend of Joan Dunbar, back problems; Lucille Morgan, friend of Joan Dunbar, back and eye problems; Steve Post, friend of George and Virginia Benson; Sandra Weber, friend of Lisa Carpenter, poor health; Louise Lears, friend of Gil Fisher; Kay Chandeysson, friend of Ann and Bill Baker, stroke; Jeanne Gordon, friend of Martha Baker, recovering from hip replacement; Leon Milsap, friend of Gil Fisher, cancer; Mary O'Neal, friend of Joan Dunbar

Departed: Bob Fox, Jeff Wunrow's uncle, cancer; Mark Hall, Brian Alms' brother-in-law.



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DATED MATERIAL

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Holy Eucharist

Sunday - 8:00 a.m. (Rite I) and 10:30 a.m. (Rite II)

Wednesday - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday - 6:30 a.m.

TRINITY TIMES

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