
NOT ON THE MOUNTAINTOP but in the Valley...

I have heard many stories about “mountaintop experiences.” You know...those times when people feel especially close to God...you feel the power and presence of God in a strong and special way. Sometimes these times happen when you least expect them, but, when they come, you feel the power of God surge in you, and perhaps you have an insight into your own life and its direction.

But most of the time we are in the valley of our spiritual life and not on the mountaintop. Down in the valley we doubt; we wonder about God’s existence; we wonder if our life has any meaning. Down in the valley we bear the slings and arrows of a culture that often makes light of God and believers.

But I will tell you a secret: the work gets done in the valley, not on the mountaintop. Mountaintop experiences refresh and renew us...but they are mostly about us. We have an Epiphany that brings us closer to God. Then God sends us down into the valley to work in a world that is in need of God but also often scorns God.

So what do we do...long for the Mountain? No, we cannot depend on mountaintop experiences to feed us; they come too seldom. Rather, we have to work out an everyday discipline of prayer, worship, and thought about God’s plan for us. We have to feed our faith in a world that is often caustic to our faith. We have to work at our belief in a world that invites us to turn from believing. And so our faith grows. It develops roots and strong vines...it grows and encompasses our life.

The work takes place in the valley where we live and minister. The valley is the place we learn the discipline of prayer, service, and worship. The valley is where we read and study the scripture daily and hear it speak to us.

Is your faith weary and weak? Do you wish God would take you up on the mountaintop like he did Peter, James and John and demonstrate his glory to you? More likely, you will find God in your everyday prayer, your regular worship, your service to others.

The mountaintop is like a hothouse...it grows lovely plants, but it is difficult for them to survive outside the hothouse. God is wise in that he gives us only a hint of the mountaintop but a great dose of the valley of service, prayer and worship. For it is in that place that we grow to be strong in our faith and capable of great service.

Fr. Fred †

Giving Tree Spreads Warm Christmas Cheer

More than 240 tags were selected from the Giving Tree in the back of the sanctuary this Christmas. Your generosity certainly brought joy and smiles to our gift recipients. We donated 87 gifts to children and adult residents of the Union Gospel Mission homeless shelter (including three bicycles!), 72 gifts to children and woman at Opening Doors for Women in Need, and 84 gifts to the McLean 6th Grade Center for 21 of their lower-income students.

A special thanks to the Trinity EYC members who decorated every Giving Tree tag, adding a handwritten holiday message for each gift recipient; the students also sorted and inventoried every gift prior to delivery.

Everyone who participated in any way will make the New Year brighter and warmer for many area children and families. And special thanks to coordinators Erin Harvey, Whitney Harwell, Jackie Ferguson and Lynne Stanley.

IN A BEGINNING ...

While we tend to translate the first words of Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1 as “In the beginning,” there is no definite article in either the Hebrew or the Greek – there is no “the.” So the more accurate translation is, “In a beginning.” While you’re pondering the theological implications of that little tidbit, I’ll jump right to application. Here we are at the beginning of a new calendar year (February is still at the beginning of the year) with all the promise that a new year brings: opportunities to learn, grow, and improve. If you’re looking for ways to make this year better than last year, I hope you consider these New Year Resolutions.

Christianity is a communal religion – it’s all about relationship. We have our respective relationships with God (more on this later); and (the “and” is very important) our respective relationships with God are in the context of our common relationship with God. It’s not about hierarchy or a value statement, but, well, have you ever known someone who never heard of God before suddenly come to the realization that Jesus the Christ died for our sins and that, through his atoning sacrifice and because he was fully human and fully divine we have a Mediator and Advocate with God? Me either. Usually, someone tells us about God. Someone tells us about Jesus. Then we look at our lives, present and past, and see the Holy Spirit at work in our lives and in the lives of those around us. We worship together not because it’s convenient (I mean, really, is Sunday morning convenient?) but as witnesses to each other and to the world that Jesus the Christ really did die for our sins and through him we are called to love God and love each other. And loving each other is a lot easier when we’re all together. Resolution: be more engaged in the community at Trinity. Want suggestions? Come on by the church office.

Christianity is an experiential religion. We don’t live into our faith in God by intellectually pondering the existence of God, daily concluding that we are redeemed through Christ. Working out our salvation daily (per St. Paul) certainly requires no small amount of mental effort. In fact, our three pillars of discerning the will of God are Scripture, Tradition, and Reason. What I’m talking about is that we experience God through the people and events in our lives and that we live into our beliefs, our creeds, and our vows through our practices, how we live, and what we do as well as those things that happen to us. Resolution: live more deliberately (every day, not just Sunday) and keep a keen eye out for the Holy Spirit at work around us. Want suggestions? Come on by the church office.

Christianity is a spiritual religion. You’d think that would go without saying. Isn’t religion, by definition, a spiritual exercise? Yeah, well, it should be, but how often do we forget that and get caught up in the trappings, distracted by the details, or lost in the liturgy (in a bad way – for church-geeks like me, being lost in the liturgy is a good thing)? Christianity is about having a relationship with God as revealed through Jesus the Christ. That relationship, like any relationship, requires communication, listening, and awareness. Communication in a spiritual relationship is called prayer. Listening in a spiritual relationship is called meditation. Awareness in a spiritual relationship requires study (i.e., the Bible). Resolution: pray more often and regularly give God time, space, and silence to talk back to you, and read more of the Bible. Want suggestions? You know.

Resolutions are not written in stone (pun intended), which is a good thing when we beat ourselves up when we fail in keeping our resolutions. Resolution: stop that. We will fail from time to time. Just remember that every day, every morning, every moment is an opportunity to start again. Life is full of beginnings.

Fr. Michael †

Ash Wednesday Services 

Ash Wednesday Services are scheduled for 7:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, & 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17.



KEEP COLLECTING FOR SOCIAL AGENCIES

The Social Concerns Commission reminds parishioners that collection boxes remain in the parish hall for toilet paper and paper towels for Opening Doors for Women and toiletries for the Presbyterian Night Shelter.



by *Karen Rangel*

We've been so excited to get the new year started! January in Sunday School was spent learning about several parables. On January 24, the children began practicing for a play production of one of the parables they've been studying to present to the parish on February 14. In addition, on February 14, we will be collecting Valentine cookies to take to the Presbyterian Night Shelter. More info will be posted in the pew bulletin.

REMINDER OF OUR REGULAR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Children's Church: 4 years - 5th grade during 9:15 service
Sunday School: After 9:15 service (4yrs -5th grade upstairs; Jr/Sr high school in basement)

MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL CELEBRATES SHROVE TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16



Time: 6-8 p.m.
Tickets: Adults: \$7
Children: \$5
Family: \$20

Good food, crafts and games for children

Being Good Stewards

by *Frances Cox*

Most of us tend to think that being good stewards of the church refers to the careful budgeting and spending of money and keeping our buildings in good repair. There is another aspect of stewardship that all too often gets overlooked, and that is the task of keeping our property clean and spaces organized.

Trinity is sorely lacking in storage space, partly due to the fact that we do not wisely use the space we have. Unfortunately, our church building often is used as a place to bring things that we no longer want or use in our homes.

There are key people in the parish who have undertaken the task of cleaning out storage spaces to make them more accessible and filled only with the items that are designated to be stored in these particular places. In a short period of time, these spaces are again filled with things that do not belong to the church and that we cannot use. This is an example of poor stewardship in the care of our property.

Another is using our facilities and failing to put things back in their proper places before we leave. This is very evident in our kitchen and pantry, as well as in our large storage closet just off the parish hall. On almost any given day of the week, you can find things out of place in the parish hall, library, new meeting room, and lounge.

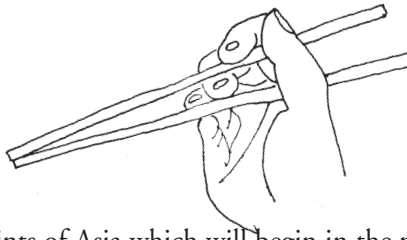
It is the hope of the vestry that we will join together in resolving to work on leaving the spaces we use a bit cleaner and neater than we find them. We all want our church to reflect a sense of caring about the spaces where we come together to meet, worship and join in fellowship. Will you join us in making this resolution a reality?

Trinity Episcopalian Editorial Board

Publisher: The Rev. J. Frederick Barber
Editor: Karen Shepherd
Designer: Margie West
Copyreader: Betty Lynn Georges
A Vestry Representative
Distribution: Mary Cockran and mailing staff

The Trinity Episcopalian is published monthly by volunteer Trinity Church parishioners. Please submit articles for inclusion by the 12th of each month. Submitted material may be edited to fit an 8 page format.

Feasting Celebrates the Saints of Asia



Sunday, January 31, is the date selected for Feasting with the Saints of Asia which will begin in the parish hall at 1:00. Tickets are \$15.00. For the first time during our feasts, we will also offer a children's program. During the adult Feasting, pizza and activities will be available for children (\$5/parishioners and \$10/non-parishioners). Please buy your tickets ahead of time so we can plan for the number of children. See Karen Rangel for more information and for children's tickets.

.....

CHRISTMAS ALTERNATIVE GIVING MARKET BEATS LAST YEAR *by Dolly Bush*

Trinity's Alternative Giving Market was a great success again this year. Earnings were \$738.00 more than last year, and our grand total was \$5,774.00. We were able to give to the following groups:

- Episcopal Campus Ministry \$220.00
- Episcopal Relief and Development \$1,795.00
- Habitat for Humanity \$679.00
- South Central Alliance of Churches \$445.00
- The Warm Place \$1,095.00
- Trinity Bell Choir \$225.00
- Union Gospel Mission \$1,305.00

After we collected all the money, we received requests from South Central Alliance of Churches and the Union Gospel Mission that the gifts be in merchandise instead of cash. Have you ever purchased 655 items, put them in a shopping cart individually, and then checked out in only 2½ hours? Maggie Withroder and I did. It was a trick but fun!

Because of members of the Altar Guild, Cell Groups, Bible Studies, and other individuals, we were also able to give 12 goats and 14 ducks and geese.

.....

NOTES FROM THE 11:30 SERVICE *by Jan Hughes*



We've had wonderful attendance at our second Sunday potlucks after the service, with nearly 40 people in December and over 30 in January. (It's hard to count moving targets precisely!)

Now we want to really get acquainted, so we've agreed that next month, we'll have Show and Tell. That is, all those who want to play will bring an object to talk about that says something about themselves. This should be good!

Remember to add your e-mail to the 11:30 distribution list Elinor Normand is keeping for us! You'll get your potluck reminder and other late-breaking news if you do.

As a member of Contemplative Outreach, the organization founded by Father Thomas Keating to promote centering prayer, I make certain to attend a retreat each year. My husband, Paul Warren, has joined me the past few years as part of his Lenten discipline. This year's retreat is a little early for Lent, but it will be wonderful. It's a workshop on a companion practice to centering prayer which embraces "letting go" and welcoming the present moment. Join us at the Welcoming Prayer Workshop, February 6, 2010, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Richardson. Details at www.CellofPeace.com

Remember our next potluck get-together is February 13!

PLACES TO GO AND PEOPLE TO SEE

Trinity Seniors Mark Your Calendars - Trinity and St. Alban's Seniors Committee has scheduled the following events for this winter and spring:

Thursday, February 11th - lunch at Joe T. Garcia's
Wednesday, March 10th - lunch in the stockyards at Risky's Barbeque

Thursday, April 8th - ride the TRE to Dallas for the Dallas Museum of Art & the Nasher Sculpture Center

Wednesday, May 12th - lunch at Gloria's in the old Montgomery Ward complex on 7th

Thursday, June 10th - lunch at the Kimbell Art Museum, followed by a potpourri of museum options (Kimbell, Modern and Amon Carter).

Saturday Supper Saturday Supper will be February 20, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the home of Price & Judy Hulsey, 2205 Winton Terrace West. Bring a dish for 8 to share and your beverage of choice. Coffee, tea and soft drinks will be provided. This is a great way to meet your Trinity family in an informal atmosphere.



A home to host Saturday Supper on March 20 is still needed. Please contact Mary Sheldon for additional information.

TRINITY HALF-TIMERS

New Group for Young & Middle Age Adults

A new group is forming called the Trinity Half-Timers. This is for anyone who would put themselves in the category of being a young adult to a middle aged adult (30 - ?). Our first "adult only gathering" will be at;

**7:00 p.m. Saturday, February 6, 2010
At Café Bella, 3548 South Hills Avenue
Fort Worth, TX *Dutch Treat!***

Café Bella has wonderful Italian food with soft drinks, tea and coffee. Diners are also welcome to "Bring Your Own Beverages."

Organizers for the first event are:

- Father Michael & Dawn Caldwell
- Jackie & Jon Ferguson
- Kelly Soter-Gunn & David Gunn
- Kerry & Scott Landers
- Sarah Matches & Al Mathé
- Joy Nelson
- Julie Wilson & Scott Nishimura
- Karen & Jim Parrish
- Ruth & Rick Story

Please R.S.V.P to Julie Wilson
nishhome2@yahoo.com or 817-926-4695

EYC SCHEDULES FUN, STUDY AND SERVICE FROM JANUARY – JUNE

EYC is a group of students who are in 6th – 12th grades. The organization meets every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. and is led by Father Michael. Each month there is a scheduled Service Project, a Bible Study, an activity outside of the church and a social gathering.

This semester the youth will be focusing on an ongoing outreach service project for the "Open Doors for Women" ministry. They will prepare a church service for our congregation, have a Lock-In and will be looking for opportunities to join another Episcopal Youth Group on a mission trip. The EYC room is a great place to gather and fellowship with one another so come and join us today! For more information or questions please contact Father Michael trinitycurate@sbcglobal.net or Karen Parrish at karenparrish@prodigy.net.

The activities are rotated each week. Here's an advance look at the February schedule:

Sunday, February 7	4:00 p.m.	Church	Social
Sunday, February 14	4:00 p.m.	Church	Bible Study
Sunday, February 21	4:00 p.m.	Bowling	Social
Sunday, February 28	4:00 p.m.	TBA	Service Project

EPISCOPAL RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS IN HAITI

by *Diocese of Fort Worth Episcopal Relief and Development Director Deacon Janet Nocher*

In Port-au-Prince, the Diocese of Haiti has set up a camp where Haitians are seeking refuge. The Church is doing all it can to provide them with food, water and any other supplies that are available.

“It is deeply inspiring to see our brothers and sisters in Christ serving others even as they themselves are struggling to overcome this heart-breaking tragedy,” said Rob Radtke, President of Episcopal Relief & Development. “The overwhelming generosity of the Episcopal Church will ensure that the Diocese of Haiti will be able to continue its ministries both in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake and as recovery and rebuilding begin.”

For the most up to date information and access to resources, visit www.er-d.org/HaitiCrisis. Included on this page is a video statement from Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and Episcopal Relief & Development President Rob Radtke. To assist those suffering in the wake of this disaster, please consider making a donation to the <Haiti Fund> at <www.er-d.org> or call 1-800-334-7626, ext. 5129. Gifts can be mailed to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058. Please write “Haiti Fund” in the memo of all checks.

EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT • Diocesan Coordinator Report

Deacon Janet Nocher

As Diocesan Coordinator for Episcopal Relief & Development (formerly known as Presiding Bishop’s Fund for World Relief), my job is to familiarize the churches and faith communities of the Diocese of Fort Worth with the work of Episcopal Relief and Development (ER-D) around the nation and the world, and to connect and involve this Diocese in the outreach ministry of the larger church.

At the 74th General Convention in 2003, the Episcopal Church formally endorsed the Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s), eight benchmarks developed by the international community to reduce extreme global poverty by 2015. They are:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development

Know any shut-ins who would like to receive Sunday’s flowers from the sanctuary?

Call Jane Mossberger for more information.



BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

February 1
Gerald George
Kathy Schneider

February 2
Klara Nedrelow
Paul Warren
Marc & Melissa Gault
William & Carol Zbranek

February 3
Joe Goggans
William Harwell
Brooke Krasowsky
Lori Tate
Joshua & Brandy Bacon

February 5
Sally Drechsel
Darryl Gross
Weldon Johnson
Thomas West
Mary Yager

February 6
The Rev. Bill Taylor III
Lauren Varner
Glenn & Ann Buis
Brad & Shari Poulos

February 7
Steve Relyea
Pierson West

February 8
Doyle Allen
Melissa Gault
Christina Hardman

February 9
Floyd Durham
Keegan George

February 11
Danny Grigg
John Grimes
Stinson & Julia Jones

February 12
Nathaniel Baines

February 13
Laura Keith
Bill Kuhlmann
Jackson Vessey
Richard Weidler

February 14
Benjamin Klemsrud

February 16
Emily Bond

February 17
Samuel Rios
Kathleen Wells

February 18
Cary Clark
Mark & Christa McClary

February 19
Terry Henderson
Kate Hunnicutt
The Rev. Walt Kesler
Clarence Lea
Oliver Vessey

February 21
Garry Bruton
Roy Rimmer

February 22
Laura Pelland

February 23
Tori Reynolds

February 24
Jordan Parker

February 25
Michael Varner
Roland & Sally Drechsel

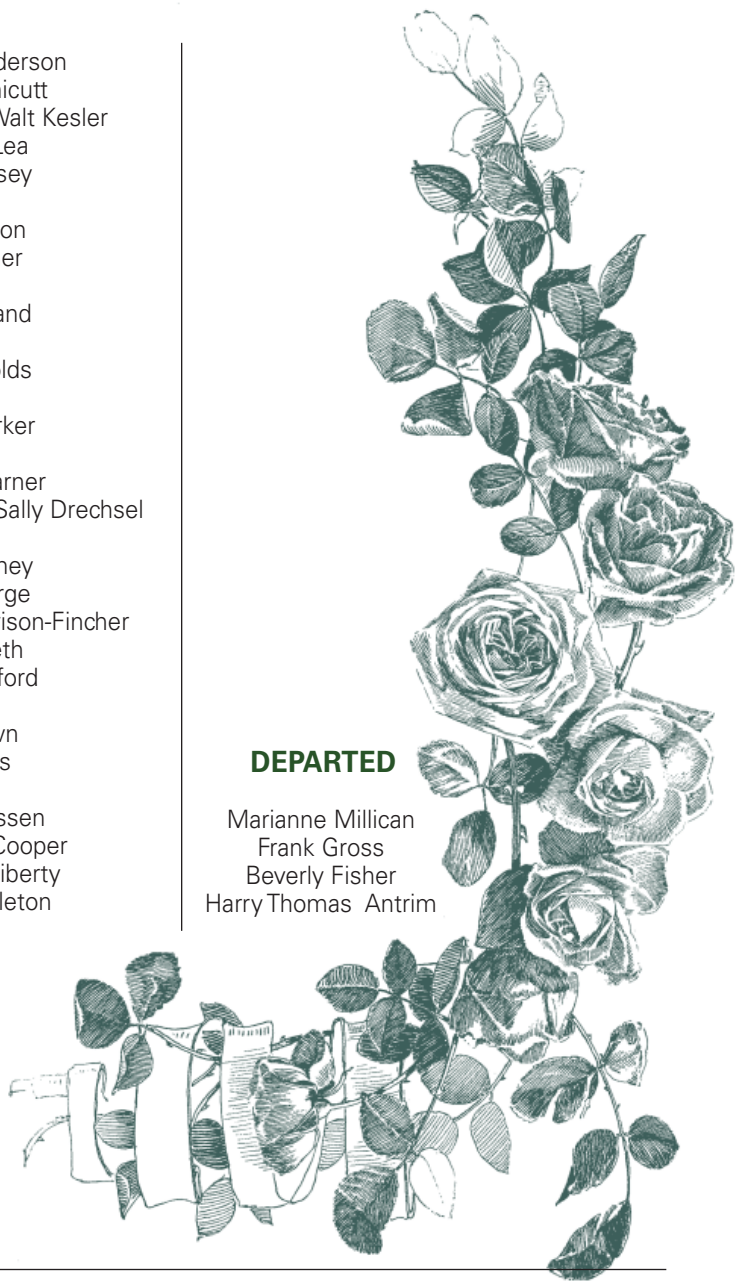
February 26
Lori Courtney
Jinky George
Sadie Harrison-Fincher
Linda Pereth
Stacy Sanford

February 27
Riley Brown
Cathy Giles

February 28
Rhys Claassen
Kimberly Cooper
Payton Feliberty
Andy Singleton

DEPARTED

Marianne Millican
Frank Gross
Beverly Fisher
Harry Thomas Antrim



COME JOIN THE GARDENERS GETTING READY FOR SPRING

February—the month of love, roses, chocolate—and rose pruning! Anyone who enjoys the pruning, trimming and weeding aspects of gardening and meeting fellow diggers is invited to come work in the church gardens Saturday, February 6 at 9:00 a.m. We will meet at the front of the church; if you come later and don't see anyone, we'll be in the back garden getting it ready for the blooms of spring. For more information, please contact Mary Kelly at (817) 926-9344 or mlckelly@charter.net.



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3401 Bellaire Drive South
Fort Worth, Texas 76109

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE

PAID

FORT WORTH TX
PERMIT NO. 2234

SERVICE INFORMATION

SUNDAYS

Holy Eucharist

8:00 am Rite I

9:15 am Rite II *Family Service
with Choir and
Children's Chapel*

10:40-11:20 *Sunday School,
ages 2-18*

11:30 am Rite II *Folk Mass*

6 pm Rite II

WEEKDAYS

Monday: 9:30 am
Morning Prayer

Tuesday: 11 am *Holy Eucharist*

Wednesday: 7 am *Holy Eucharist
followed by breakfast*

Thursday: Noon *Holy Eucharist
followed by Bible study*

STAFF

Rector: *the Rev. J. Frederick Barber*

Curate: *the Rev. Michael Caldwell*

Deacon: *The Rev. Janet Nocher*

Director of Trinity School: *Lynn Allen*

Choirmaster: *Alan Buratto*

Organist: *Debora Clark*

Webmaster: *Elinor Normand*

Children's Ministry: *Karen Rangel*

Business Manager: *Jackie Robinson*

Parish Administrator: *Linda Santiago*

Church Phone: 817 926.4631

Church Fax: 817 920.9043

Email: ftworthtrinity@sbcglobal.net

Web: fortworthtrinity.org

PreSchool Phone: 817 926.0750