



TIDINGS

God out of the Box

When I was a very young child, my parents enrolled me in catechism classes at the Roman Catholic church my family attended. In those classes I learned the rudiments and traditions of the church. The altar of the church at that time, of course, was against the wall. On a raised dais in the center of the altar stood the tabernacle, an impressively ornate gold structure in which the reserve elements were kept. From my catechism classes I had concluded that God lived in that tabernacle. When my family attended church on Sunday mornings, I always insisted that we sit in a pew on the very far left side of the nave, because I was convinced that when the priest opened the doors of the tabernacle, from my vantage point in the pew, I could

“God cannot be contained, and it can be perilous to believe that God can be enclosed in a box...”

catch a glimpse of God over the left shoulder of the priest. Sunday after Sunday, when everyone else’s heads were bowed in the Eucharistic prayer, I would contort myself to see clearly, and would force myself not to blink so that I would behold the Great Mystery.

As I grew older, and my understanding of God grew too, I knew intellectually, and in some ways emotionally as well, that God was not *really* in the tabernacle. Yet, there

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And much more!!

was a little boy in me who clung to the idea that in some way, God really *did* reside in my church, on my altar, in God's very own little house. One day, when I was a teenager, the little boy in me and the (ever so slightly more) worldly soon-to-be-adult in me had to take an up close and personal look in that tabernacle. So, fighting off the fear instilled in me by my catechism training, I got the courage to open the altar rail, step inside the chancel area, and approach the altar. The little boy worried that at any second the sleeping God would awake and smite me to ashes for defiling this holy space, but the teenager in me moved me moved my hands upward and forward to touch the sacred doors of the tabernacle itself. So far so good. The sleeping God had not awakened.

I opened the doors, and slowly pushed back the silk curtains that separated this earthly word from what the little boy knew was the inner sanctum, the holy of holies, where God lived. I looked in and beheld the interior. It was beautifully lined with marble in golden and white hues. Indeed the whole tabernacle was a magnificent work of art; clearly a place where God would like to live. But the space was empty. The eye of God did not peer back at

me. The little boy was disappointed, but at the same time relieved that no bolts of lightening had shot forth for being so presumptuous.

I am glad that my understanding of God, and the absolutely penetrating love of God has enlarged. God cannot be contained, and it can be perilous to believe that God can be enclosed in a box made of marble or restricted by our own mental constructions. It is impossible to "own" God, and I am increasingly convinced that every time we think we have arrived at "The Understanding of God," God finds a way to reveal our folly, and to expand our horizons anew, if we are willing to set the box aside and open our hearts and eyes.

Although I am grateful for the tiny, woefully incomplete understanding of God that I have now, I look forward every day to experience and witness the unexpected newness of the Infinite Love and Power of God that is revealed through family, friends, strangers, and nature itself. Praise be to God!



Wanted: New Chairperson for the Newcomers Commission

By Bill Stroop

Jody Link has, after many years, decided to step down as the chair of the Newcomers Commission. We are all grateful to her for her leadership and especially for her gracious and loving ministry to the many, many people who have joined Trinity in recent years. Thank you Jody for a wonderful job done, good and faithful servant!!



Well

If you are interested in ministry to the new people who come to Trinity, please let Bill know (601-329-3538). And if you need information about the Newcomer Ministry, please call Jody at 601-447-4253 to familiarize yourself. The Newcomers Ministry is a very important function of our parish life. I hope you will prayerfully consider this opportunity to help our parish grow.

Special Thank to Will Brett



Will Brett, 5, presents Fr. Bill a basket of can goods for the parish's Breadbasket Pantry. The food basket was the result of Will requesting that guests to his birthday party bring canned goods for the pantry instead of gifts for him. Will gave the food at the offertory during a Sunday service. Will is the son of Greg and Anna Laura Brett.

Jody Burnett's Purse

If you are interested in helping Jody Burnett while he is in seminary, you can make a donation to Trinity Church, put Jody's name on the envelopes provided in the pews and put in the collection basket or mail it to the church. If you give cash, please indicate your name and address on the outside of the envelope. Do not put Jody's name on

the memo line of your check. Jody's name should be on the envelope. Contributions designated to a specific individual on your checks are not tax deductible. **Jody would like to acknowledge your gifts, so we will provide him with names and addresses but not amounts.** If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church office.

The Trinity Parish Wish List

Below is a list of items that Trinity needs. If you would like to help us meet these needs, please call the church office (601-554-5551) or Fr. Bill (601-329-3538).

Item	Estimated Cost	Comments
Replacement RIZO RZ 390 Digital Duplicator	\$8700	The "Rizo" copier is the type of copying machine that we use to prepare bulletins at less per copy cost than standard photocopies. Our Rizo is old and cannot duplicate the large paper we really want to use, and it is beginning to show signs of failure.
Resealing the Parish Hall and adjacent floors	\$1600	The parish hall floors can be made to look like the narthex floor by periodic professional cleaning and resealing.
4 th and 5 th grade classroom implements and reconfiguring.	\$2000	In order to implement the Godly Play program, we need to acquire some manipulative teaching materials (for tactile learning), as well as some bookcases, shelving, tables, etc. We also will need to repaint and redecorate the room.
Automated irrigation system for the Corrine Street properties	\$3,000	These properties will be graded and seeded soon and an irrigation system will be needed.

Requests from the Christian Education Commission

The Christian Education Commission needs your help obtaining three classes of items for the forthcoming school year. Please bring any of these items to the church office at your convenience.

(1) Children's activity books for the young people they minister to on Sunday mornings. If you have any old activity books (coloring books, cut-out

books, etc.) please bring them to the church office.

(2) Costume jewelry. Any old pieces of costume jewelry that you might have that you no longer need.

(3) Scrap pieces of material, yarn, sewing materials, notions (like buttons, etc.)

Fr. Bill Wants Your E-Mail Address(es)



I want Trinity Parish to have the best communication possible, and one very good way to make sure we know what is happening is through electronic communications. I maintain my own email directory of all parish members, so even if you've already given your e-mail address to the church I might not have it. Please note that no email ad-

resses will be provided to anyone for any reason, and all mailings will be done to the parish using Constant Contact™ or "blind copy" to protect your email address. Remember, even if you have already provided your email address to the church please send it to me again at wgstrop@earthlink.net, or complete the information below, tear off the slip as indicated, and put the slip into the collection plate. The counters will get these slips to me. Thanks for your cooperation.



NAME: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

PERSONAL WEB PAGE: _____



Trinity News and Notes

“Teach them to Fish”,

a Micro-Industry Mission meets at Trinity every Wednesday night at 5:30 p.m. Please join us or call the church office for more information at 601-544-5551.



The church office will be closed Friday, July 4th

Breadbasket

Trinity's next time to serve Breadbaskets is the week of July 7. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Karen Shappley.

**Have an announcement for the Tidings?
Get it to Sunshine by July 25th (sunshinestroop@hotmail.com)**

Trinity Transitions

Our Condolences

We extend our sympathy to Gloria Norris & Lori Lassiter on the death of their mother Fran Lassiter

We extend our sympathy to Sharon Hoze on the death of her 17 year old nephew Charles Moore.

Congratulations

On June 8, we welcomed into our church family by baptism Kenley James Baker, son of Jamie & Kim Baker, great grandson of Natalie Matthews, and great great grandson of L. A. Rogers

On June 22 we welcomed into our church family by baptism Anna Caroline Poole, son of Bill & Elloitt Poole and granddaughter of Harvey & Ann Poole.

Please let the church know...

Trinity is a busy and growing place which is a wonderful thing but it does mean that it can be difficult to get your information to the correct person. Below is a list of people to

Hospital Stays	Fr. Bill	601-329-3538 wgstrop@earthlink.net
Add someone to prayer list	Linda	601-544-5551
Information about choir	Jane	601-544-5551 Jane.butler45@gmail.com
Ask a question or express a concern	Fr. Bill	601-329-3538 wgstrop@earthlink.net
Information about children or youth programming	Lauren	601-544-5551 misylaw@aol.com



TEACH THEM TO FISH MINISTRY—How you can help!

Support the "Teach Them to Fish" Honduran Mission.

About a year ago John DeLancy and Chris Tardy started a micro-industry mission to Omoa, Honduras. With the blessings of the Bishops of Honduras and Mississippi, they have met weekly to plan teaching stained glass methods to the ladies of Omoa. The main goal of the mission is to teach a skill that can provide an income for

families that want to improve themselves and their communities. John has already made two mission trips to Omoa and needs to go back at periodic intervals to continue this ministry. They need your financial support to fund this missionary work. Please make your checks payable to Trinity Church, and note "Microindustry Mission" on the memo line. Any and all amounts are welcome.

Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Emergency Relief Fund

Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Emergency Relief Fund has been set up to help one of our parishioners with her medical expenses. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please make checks payable to Trinity Emergency Relief Fund. You should not put the name of anyone on your check or

on the on the memo line of your check. Put a note with the check that it is for our parishioner who needs help. **The parishioner would like to acknowledge your gifts, so we will provide your name and address but not amounts.**

Abbreviated Vestry Minutes

Insurance Report. The report on insurance is postponed for a month. It was also reported that health insurance for clergy must be through the Diocese because it is a contractual obligation. Other staff may be covered through private insurance

Altar Dais Safety Improvements. Fr. Bill explained that the abrasive striping originally considered for this project is not suitable because it ruins wood floors. Instead, colored red and white tape will be installed by Mr. Robert Cox. This combination appears to be effective but not too obtrusive. Fr. Bill also shared other repair work done by Mr. Robert Cox for the church.

Gray Center Sunday. A check for \$200 was sent to the Gray Center in support of Gray Center Sunday.

Gate Repair. The fence and gate work in the play school play area is complete. It was also reported that Mr. Leighton Lewis, Jr. trimmed the overgrown bushes in the play ground area. The vestry was very appreciative of his work.

Report on the Alley behind the Church. All the approvals for vacating the alley behind the church have processed and were approved by the Hattiesburg City Council. Mr. Davis Sheley is now looking into plans for a proposed covered entrance to be financed by the Thompson Trust. Height of the entrance will be a

consideration because of delivery trucks and garbage trucks.

Policy for Dealing with Vagrants. The vestry discussed how do deal with vagrants. Mrs. Marie Pope said that she would revise the printed brochure we have to make them more useful. The vestry adopted the following policies: The church will have informational brochures available with maps and will call the police if transportation of a vagrant is need. The church will not give out cash. Signs would be placed in the nursery and classrooms outlining the policy and the phone number to call for police assistance.

Commission Heads. Mrs. Linda Banning has agreed to head the Altar Guild and asked for suggestions regarding the Flower Guild, Calling & Caring, and Parish Activities. Mrs. Cathy Dodds volunteered to head the Parish Activities Commission.

The Columbarium. Architect Ed Blake is revising plans for the Columbarium and will include landscaping. Funds for this project may be available from the Thompson Trust for this project.

Vestry Consultant Meeting. Mrs. Linda Nelson, the consultant provided by the Diocese, requires that the meeting on June 21, 2008 be only for elected members of the Vestry, the Clergy, and the Treasurer. Mrs. Linda Trussell will

Vestry Minutes Continued from Page 8

also be invited to take notes.

Financial Report. Mrs. Jan Moore said that additions have been made to the Liabilities section of the Balance Sheet to show the amounts owed for the Diocesan Pledge and the loan from the Burks Account. Except for Workers Comp, all expenses for the month were standard expenditures. Mrs. Jan Moore also stated that Trinity does not have enough money to cover payroll and end of the month expenses. BancorpSouth has extended temporary overdraft protection, so that payroll checks can be cashed, with the expectation that any overdrafts will be paid back the following week. Trinity needs approximately \$41,000 to resolve the current shortfall. The gap between available funds and expenses is widening and that the church needs more money to maintain what we already have. A 13th month pledge was discussed and it was estimated that it would

bring in \$27,000 if everyone participated. The Sr. Warden and Rector will send a letter regarding the church's needs and the 13th month pledge. It was also noted that the State of Mississippi will collect 7% sales tax on crawfish boil. A request was made that everyone brainstorm about fundraisers and ways to bring in people from the community. A request was made of the Treasurer to determine how much of a percentage increase would be needed from everyone's pledge for the church to be solvent. Discussion will continue at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Blood Drive. Everyone was encouraged to participate in the June 23rd blood drive from 4 pm - 8 pm in the Parish Hall. The church has a 12 pint commitment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. after the Lord's Prayer.

Camp Dads Needed



Do you have an interest in serving at Camp Bratton Green this summer? Fr. Bill Barfield needs Dads who are

willing to serve as Camp Dads for third and fourth graders the week of July 28 to Aug 3. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Barfield directly at 601-818-9227.

HOLY LEISURE a silent retreat with special guidance from licensed Spiritual Directors August 8-10, & November 7-9. For registration information please contact The Rev. Debo Dykes, debo@dioms.org, or 601-948-5954.

Trinity Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School at Trinity this year was a success! Anna Laura Brett and Betsy McIntire would like to express their gratitude to the volunteers whose generosity of time and spirit made this event possible. Many thanks to Martha Ann Curry, Cathy Dodds Alice Carol Gray, Kelly and Jason Henley, Alvin Hester, Fr. Bill Stroop, Sharon Hoze, Patty Bomboy, Poppy

Hutt, Sarah McClure, Lauren Link, Linda Trussell, Mary Turner and Lauren Wainwright. Over thirty children participated in “**A verse a day shows me the way**”; they sang, heard Bible stories, made crafts, played games, and finished the week in a program for friends and family. Thanks again to all those who supported this program for our children.





Participants were:

Tess McIntire, Davis Lynn, Jill Ellen Underwood, Hadlee Johnson, Scott Klauk, Kensie Bellinger, Oden Dillendoffer, Connor Hutt, Beau Hinton, Kevin Klauk, Christopher Moore, Tommy Pope, Jack Schwartz, Harper Doerr, Emma Claire Carey, Mary McIntire, Will Ramano, Chloe McDonald, Sam Ramano, Hayden Henley, Will Brett, Carson, Presley Wilkes, Matthew Carmichael, Piper Henley, Anna Broome, Eli Doerr, and Jill.

Prayer List

If you have a Prayer List request, please complete the form
below and send it to Linda in the church office.

Please add the following individual to the prayer list.

Today's date _____

Name

Submitted by

Brief explanation (family member, friend, military deployment, etc.)

Please return this form to the church office.

Names will remain on the Prayer List through the last Sunday of the month.

Those who continue to need our prayers should be resubmitted
at the beginning of the next month.

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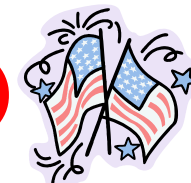
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July 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 2:00 p.m. Centering Prayer 5:15 p.m. Bible Study	2 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion & Healing Service 4:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Micro-industry Mission Meeting 5:30 p.m. Daughters of the King 6:00 p.m. Adult Choir	3	4 Office Closed 	5
6 8 & 10:30 am Holy Communion Coffee Hour Follows Each Service 9:15 a.m. NO Rector's Forum Choir Rehearsal 10:15 a.m. Children's Summer Chapel	7 9:30 a.m. Pine Meadows Service	8 2:00 p.m. Centering Prayer 5:15 p.m. Bible Study	9 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion & Healing Service 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Micro-industry Mission Meeting 6:00 p.m. NO Adult Choir	10	11	12
13 8 & 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Coffee Hour Follows Each Service 9:15 a.m. Rector's Forum Choir Rehearsal 10:15 a.m. Children's Summer Chapel	14 Trinity Playschool Spanish Summer Camp 9a.m.-12p.m. 9:30 a.m. Pine Meadows Service	15 Trinity Playschool Spanish Summer Camp 9a.m.-12p.m. 2:00 p.m. Centering Prayer 5:15 p.m. Bible Study	16 Trinity Playschool Spanish Summer Camp 9a.m.-12p.m. 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion & Healing Service 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Daughter's of the King 5:30 p.m. Micro-Industry Mission Meeting 6:00 p.m. Adult Choir	17 Trinity Playschool Spanish Summer Camp 9a.m.-12p.m.	18 Trinity Playschool Spanish Summer Camp 9a.m.-12p.m.	19
20 8 & 10:30 am Holy Communion Coffee Hour Follows Each Service 9:15 a.m. Rector's Forum Choir Rehearsal 10:15 a.m. Children's Summer Chapel	21 9:30 a.m. Pine Meadows Service	22 2:00 p.m. Centering Prayer 5:15 p.m. Bible Study	23 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion & Healing Service 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Micro-Industry Mission Meeting 5:30 p.m. Daughters of the King 6:00 p.m. Adult Choir	24	25 Tidings Deadline Please send articles to Sunshine at sunshinestroup@hotmail.com	26
27 8 & 10:30 am Holy Communion Coffee Hour Follows Each Service 9:15 a.m. Rector's Forum (Old Choir Room) Choir Rehearsal	28 9:30 a.m. Pine Meadows Service 5:15 p.m. Finance Commission Meeting	29 2:00 p.m. Centering Prayer 5:15 p.m. Bible Study	30 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion & Healing Service 10:00 a.m. Fold Tidings 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 5:15 p.m. Vestry Meeting 5:30 p.m. Micro-Industry Mission Meeting 6:00 p.m. NO Adult Choir			

Birthdays in July



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>If a birthday is omitted or listed incorrectly, please call the church office at 601-544-5551.</i>		1 Chip Tatum Roy C. Eure Marvin Murphy	2 Carter Carroll Joe O'Connell	3	4	5
6 Jenny Sue Ashley	7	8 Katelyn Carmichael Ike Herrington	9 Rick Durden Nick Ezell	10 Jim O'Dair Ree Brahan	11 Amy Miller	12 Matthew Little
13 Catherine Adams	14 Liam Irizarry Bettie Webb	15 Gardner Fletcher Betty Denkler Benjamin M. Carmichael	16 Stephen Fletcher Walter Rhain	17	18 Jessica Rose Smith	19 Jan Moore
20 Alice Gray Louis Burghard	21 Christina Tardy	22	23	24 David Carmichael Ryan O'Connell	25 Crystal Tanner	26 Quinn Thomson
27	28	29 Dick Bowers John Sutherland	30 Clark Callahan Richard Bowers Julia Chicoine	<i>Happy Birthday!</i>		

*O God, our times are in your hands:
Look with favor on our members and grant that they grow in
wisdom and grace as they begin another year.*

*Jesus commends that we pray for one another.
Please remember those on our prayer list.*

Please pray for those who have asked our prayers:

- Bobby & Betty Steadman
- Elizabeth Scharff
- Betty & Charlene McSwain
- Bettie Webb
- Crosby Gammill
- Daryl Thompson
- Jerry Jones
- Sharon Weathersby
- Frances Trosclair
- Angie McMillen
- Pat Green
- Josh DeLancey
- Curt Weaver
- Jo Pugh
- Lyn Johnson
- Margaret McIntire
- The Rev. Susan Bear
- Karolyn House
- Judith Jones
- Jo Bissell
- Mary Deane McInnis
- L. A. Rogers
- Mildred Sumner
- Kay Tallirico
- Dessia Hinton
- Jason Weathers
- Libby Lewis
- Gerald Morris
- Ellen Ciurczak
- Dana Ragsdale
- Angie Pradat
- Peggy & Bob Regl
- Melanie Williams
- Coco Sutherland
- Vicky Garraway
- Tom Fry
- Kathryn Brumfield

- Ronald Bird
- Andrew Robinson
- Jenny Sue Ashley
- Emily Kate Smith
- Matthew Carreiro
- Joshua Cox
- B. J. Andrade
- Clay Thames
- Michael Garner
- Carol Ryan
- Brooke Brewer
- Edwina Grimsley
- Caden Allen
- Royce Pierce
- Catherine Brahan
- Rob Rankin
- Joe Clark
- Jan May

Our homebound and retirement home residents:

- Marge West
- Kathryn M. Jones
- Willana Price

For our men & women serving our country:

- Airman John O. Sutherland
- Blake Heidelberg
- Kevin Lewis
- Major Beau Eidt
- Joseph Duncan
- Major Patrick Walden
- SFC Shawn Walden
- Paul Waldoff
- Christoph Martin
- Sr. Airman Rian Eason
- Wesley Prevsch

For our Seminarian

- Jody Burnett

To add someone to the prayer list please fill out the form on the back of the Tidings or contact the church office at 601-544-5551.