

TIDINGS

February 2012

FROM THE RECTOR . . .

Dear Friends,

On February 10th we will gather for the annual Generous Hearts Banquet and Youth Mission Auction. It is a perfect opportunity to celebrate with fellowship, good food, and fun a successful annual pledge drive for our General Fund Budget for 2012.

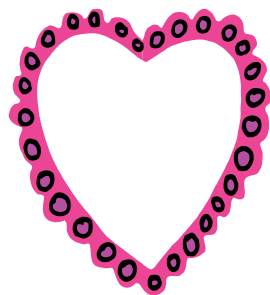
I thought this might be a good time to share with you some interesting information about our congregation which defines us as unique. Our pledging membership spans 26 zip codes from Delray to the Northern parts of Palm Beach County. It reaches from Palm Beach in the East to Atlantis and Wellington further to the West. This helps define the great diversity that we see in the congregation on any given Sunday. It categorizes us as a regional church and with that its attendant benefits and responsibilities.

Our diversity provides for a depth of spirituality that a neighborhood church cannot provide but out of this also comes the need to be able to meet the program and ministry needs of such a wide spread group of people. As we work on our Strategic Plan for the future these are some of the issues (and wonderful issues they are to have) we will have to address.

Please join us on February 10th at 6 pm to celebrate the Holy Spirit alive and well at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

Faithfully,

Fr. David



In Celebration of the Abundance of Our Blessings

Your presence is kindly requested

At

**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church's
Annual Stewardship Celebration Dinner**

Friday, February 10, 2012

6:00 pm Social Hour and Youth Mission Auction

7:00 pm Dinner

211 Trinity Place

West Palm Beach

R.s.v.p. to Heather Luttier at luttier@comcast.net or 833-1468

**Holy Trinity
Episcopal
Church**
**211 Trinity Place
West Palm Beach
Florida, 33401**
(561) 655-8650
(561)655-6646 FAX
www.holytrinitywpb.org

THE HOLY TRINITY STAFF

The Very Rev. David R. Wilt
Rector

The Rev. Charles A.
Browning, II,
Associate Rector

The Rev. Canon Howarth L.
Lewis, Jr.
Deacon

Elizabeth Brown
Director of
Christian Education

Sarah Lidinsky
Youth Director

Mace Graham
Director of Music

Carol A. Provera
Parish Administrator

Brian Nehemias
Sexton

Sunday Services
8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Evensong
Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
Healing Service:
Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Holy Trinity is called to be a witness of God's love to the people of our community and to the world through our open minds, and our open hearts. All baptized persons are welcome to receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. We are a community on a spiritual journey, seeking to grow in faith and service through our worship, education and outreach programs.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



***Happy
Birthday !!!***

1 Elizabeth Donn Shelley Hedstrom	11 Craig Evans Kim Robinson		
2 Courtney Lambert	12 Laurie Kelley		
5 Kirsten Tenore	13 Abigail Tiefenthaler	15 Connie Matiszak	23 Rose Walton
6 Jeremy Froyen Audrey Cain	14 Julian Davies Mae Belle Tucker	17 Beth Brown Wesley Wheat	24 Chris Grant Stefan Martinsen
8 Cindy Nehemias Mei Lin O'Malley	18 Fran Coopersmith Ames Bennett	18 Aimee Dunstan	25 Janet Blackford Mary Gushee
9 Tim Hulett	19 Chaunce Wallace Berkley Forbes	19 Skyler Long	28 James Krumenacker
		21 Sammy Luttier	

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING., FEBRUARY 5, 2012.

More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$60 million has been raised for local charities across the country. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation’s largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving.

Be a part of this movement by giving generously on Super Bowl Sunday. Every dollar donated will go to St. George’s feeding mission.



OUTREACH NEWS

We have received a letter from Rev. Amy L. Bauer, Director of Volunteers and Congregational Development at C.R.O.S. (Christians Reaching Out to Society) thanking us for our food collection for the Riviera Beach Food Pantry. We donated 600 pounds of food. Last year, from January through November, almost 45,000 individuals were helped by this service, and half of those were children. The Food Pantry continues to need volunteers. Call 561-233-9009 to help.

THE PASSWORD

The men's bible study group is studying the book of Exodus which leads me to this small dissertation. To seek something **more** than mere obedience to the commandments on Mt. Sinai was indeed a great step in growth of human consciousness. When God gave them to Moses, those laws were truly revolutionary for their time. For example, the law honoring one's aged parents demanded that people of that era re-evaluate how they customarily treated the aged among them. The law of Sinai called for a radical concern for all people, regardless of their age, usefulness or material value.

Several thousand years later Jesus called his disciples to take the next giant step beyond the commandments. The new law "to love" sums up all of the old law; at the same time it pushes the disciple to stretch his or her heart to the limits. For if our holiness is to surpass that of those who merely keep the external law, then we have to be **more** than kind or polite. We will have to be **more** than just and **more** than respectful to others.

Before we receive Communion as we confess our sins against God and our neighbors. What word heals our brokenness, our failings and sins that block our ability to be in communion as we go to Communion? What if, at that moment, we spoke the word "more" silently within our hearts, as if saying to ourselves, "while my life at this point is less than perfect, and I have less than wholehearted love for you, O God, I promise to do **more**. I pledge to be **more** loving, **more** patient, **more** understanding."

The gate that leads to the kingdom is difficult to enter, but for those who know the password, there will be no trouble in making the gates of the Kingdom swing open. And what is the password? As you may have already guessed, it is the word **MORE**.

Canon Hap Lewis, Deacon

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON
PRESIDENTS' DAY
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH**



PARISH REGISTER

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TRANSFERS OUT

Charles and Patricia Erkman

To St. Mark's Church, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 1-18-12

TRANSFERS IN

Kimela Weisenborn

From St. Andrew's Church, Lake Worth, Florida 1-19-12

WEDDINGS

Alejandra Baudilia Salani and Daniel Ricardo Gomez 1-21-12

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Monday, February 20th, 7:00 pm

Selection : Halfbroke Horses

By Jeanette Walls

Hostess : Debbie Micelli

RSVP to Debbie Micelli at 582-1615

Obtain books through either the library, bookstore, or Amazon.com.

Questions, please call Andrea Thomas at 236-6456



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 21st, from 6-8 pm in the Parish Hall

All you can eat : pancakes, sausage and bacon

(plus OJ, Milk or Coffee)

\$5 for one and \$12 for a whole family

(doesn't matter how many kids)



CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

Father David will hold an adult confirmation class on Saturday, February 4th, 9 am to 1 pm in the Parish Parlor.

Please call Fr. David at 655-8650 if you plan to attend.

Confirmation will take place on Sunday, February 19th



LENT BEGINS THIS MONTH

FEBRUARY 22
ASH WEDNESDAY
IMPOSITION OF ASHES
7 A.M.
12 NOON
6 P.M.

FIVE WEEK
WEDNESDAY NIGHT
LENTEN PROGRAM
LED BY FR. DAVID WILT
(See details below)

PALM CROSS
WORKSHOP
SATURDAY,
MARCH 31st
10 A.M.
IN THE COURTYARD

FIVE-WEEK WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SERIES PROGRAM AND SIMPLE SUPPERS

THE PROGRAM

Topic: *“Speaking Christian--Why Christian Words Have
Lost Their Meaning and Power--And How They Can Be Restored”*
by Marcus Borg

*(Note: Reading the book is not a prerequisite of the Program, but
for your convenience, copies of Mr. Borg's book will be made
available for sale after the Sunday Services.)*

Facilitator: The Very Rev. David R. Wilt, Rector

Dates: February 29th - March 7 - March 14 - March 21 - March 28

Place: Holy Trinity Parish Hall

Times: Supper at 6pm - Program at 7pm

There will be no charge for the Program but donations will be accepted
Child Care Available

THE SIMPLE SUPPERS

(Soup, Salads and Bread)

On February 29th we will deviate from the 'simple' supper with St. Elizabeth's Chapter hosting a special tasting party event consisting of prepared recipes from their Holy Trinity Cookbook. For the remaining Wednesdays we will go back to the 'simple' suppers and ask our parish ministry groups/organizations to volunteer to make homemade soup to feed at least 60 people each week and for those parishioners who plan to attend who are not providing soup, we ask that they sign up to provide bread or a salad. NO DESSERTS will be served.

So, pick one of the four remaining Wednesdays, sign up your group/organization to make soup, or sign up to provide either salad or bread. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Parish Hall near the Kitchen.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE SERIES

FEBRUARY DUTY ROSTER If you cannot serve, please find a substitute.

SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 5	FEBRUARY 12	FEBRUARY 19	FEBRUARY 26
LECTORS	8-TLipscomb 10 SHammell, JRichardson, BHadsell	8-JLansing 10-SHedstrom, BWeaver, MLewis	8-NMaas 10-BForbes, JFroyen, ELee	8-DVarella 10-MRovinelli, NDrevich,MFarnan
CHALISTS	8-ADean 10-CLee,TBrown	SBlackwell 10-NDrevich,BWeaver	8-MMcCampbell 10-JFroyen, JRichardson	8-DVarella 10-MRovinelli, ELee
ACOLYTES	MFarnan, MoMcClure, NCollins, MCollins	BThornton, MPuc, LPuc, MeNahom	SLuttier, SLambert, MaMcClure, EDickens	EHammell, MCollins, NCollins, MoMcClure
GREETERS	8-MHadley 10-SWilt, JGuinessey, JBayard	8-B/RWalton, ADean 10-JSturgis, VScherff, PHannah,NDrum	8-MJohnston,BWalton 10-SBryant, BSmith, LAdams, RGorman	8-TLipscomb,CWilson 10-PTickner, JMaddaford
TELLERS	Teams I	Teams II	Teams III	Teams IV
COFFEE HOUR	8-SHeaton, MBromley 10-no information	8-B/RWalton 10-no information	8-SMichalelides 10-no information	8-CWilson 10-no information

VESTRY GREETERS

No information



ALTAR GUILD

8 am- CWilson, MHadley,
CMcCracken
10 am-NClark,LBurns, MRasnick,
MLewis

USHERS

February 5— Teams I
February 12 — Teams II
February 19 — Teams III
February 26 — Teams IV

FOUR NEW MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE VESTRY

At the Holy Trinity Annual Meeting held on Wednesday, January 16th, the following parishioners were elected, each to serve a three year term on the vestry :

Josephine Bayard, Doug Duncan, Kerry O'Malley

Jim Richardson was re-elected to serve a three year term

An installation ceremony will take place on Sunday, February 12th, at the 10 am service for the elected members.

Jack Lansing, Jeremy Froyen and Chaz Adams, who rotated off the vestry this year, were also recognized and thanked for their faithful service to Holy Trinity and the Vestry over the past three years, as was Jim Richardson.

Just So You Know, There Has Been No Teacher in Our Church School Classroom for Years

Fifteen years ago, I stood in one of Holy Trinity's church school classrooms trying to make a point about a Bible story to a group of elementary school students. It was my first year "teaching" and I put that word in quotes for specific reasons. Before I share those reasons, let me tell you about one of the students that first year, Frances. As I held a Bible up, Frances interrupted me, pointing to the book in my hand and demanding to know, "If that's not true, we're all just wasting our time here, aren't we?" She wasn't joking and stared at me waiting for her answer. I realized in that moment that I had a significant problem. I had no idea how to answer her question. It wasn't in the curriculum. And certainly, there was no use continuing to tell Bible stories until I was sure she had faith that the Book was authentically the word of God. So the entire next class we worked on helping Frances answer her question.

Each year that I show up in that classroom, I remain grateful for what she did there. Her honesty about her feelings shifted the focus of the class to the important questions that are really in the hearts and minds of the children. There is certainly a place for a Bible-based curriculum that I was trying to use when she spoke her mind, but what Frances and many children in the classroom after her have made clear is, we do them a disservice if we do not find out what is challenging their faith and then help them meet those challenges.

The past years have made equally clear to me that not all students are as comfortable as Frances about asking candid questions, even when invited to share their thoughts. Many hesitate and, in my opinion, it's a problem because it impacts their relationship with God. In my opinion also, it should be troubling to us all because it's the grown-ups' fault the children hesitate in the first place. The problem became clear to me at the end of one school year about ten years ago when, as I do each year, I turned the tables on the students and asked each one in turn to "teach" the class the most important thing that he or she learned during the year. On this day, a student stood up and said simply, "I have learned in this class that I can ask any question about God that I want to." As I talked her through her statement she revealed a fear that she had lived with, that if she asked questions about God, she would be seen as doubting God's existence or His power, or challenging His choices. She did not want to risk offending God, she explained, nor her parents. She had been told many times what she was supposed to believe about God and she was simply supposed to obey. She was not the last student to arrive at the classroom with this problem.

The inherent risk of imposing beliefs this way on children whose minds and hearts are working as the Creator so empowered them became even clearer to me about a year later. We were having a discussion about the definition of "faith" when I asked the students to share anything they had been told about God that they weren't sure of. One child looked particularly sad that day, so I asked if she wanted me simply to skip to the next student. She did not answer, rather said "I don't think I believe in God anymore." She accepted my invitation to explain why. She explained that she had been told that "everything happens for a reason" and that "God has a plan for everyone," but her cousin had been stillborn the previous week. As she began to grieve openly about the empty nursery and the baby with a name she knew but would never meet, it became apparent that despite several days to do so, no adult had taken the time to put this tragedy into the context of what she believed about God and the role of God in times of tragedy. So she had been left not only brokenhearted, but with her faith in God in shambles because two simple phrases defined the faith in a moment when they made no sense in a child's heart.

Many other times over the years I have found that inviting children simply to be honest about their beliefs will reveal very important things about what we have been teaching them, perhaps most significantly even when we are not trying to do so. For example, when I have asked our children to describe how they envision God, the students say things like, "He has a beard" or "He looks like a cloud." I expect those things, but I have heard the likes of "God is white" from many white students who then justify the statement by pointing out that in the Book of Genesis we read that God created humans in His image and we are white, right? The moment I point out that they have overlooked the Creator's work with more diversity than that, the image changes and hopefully creates a bit more room for all of humanity to be seen as godly.

Perhaps I am wrong, but I am also convinced that in moments like these God speaks through our children to remind the adults around them of essential truths. One of the most compelling things a child said in the classroom was spoken just a few weeks ago. The topic for the day's discussion was simply, "If you were God, what would you do differently?" One student drew a picture of a staircase, with a man at the top who she labeled "Bill Gates" and one at the bottom who she labeled "a hobo." Beneath that picture she wrote this caption: "Eliminate superiority. Everyone is equal in God's eyes. Why should the world be any different from what God sees?"

So I put the word "teaching" in quotes for good reasons, seeing myself as less a teacher and more as one who simply has conversations about God. Because for each of the last fifteen years, I have found that by just having a conversation about God with our community's children, I learn as much as they do. And because every year there are still moments when a child like Frances blurts out questions that I cannot answer, or a child's grief over a profound loss shows me that we are failing to help our children enough to build a relationship with God, or a child's pure view of the world around us takes my breath away.

Michael Dolce

(Mr. Dolce is one of our dedicated Sunday School teachers.)



Newcomer– New Member Classes

Getting Acquainted with Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

February 19, 2012	Newcomer Orientation	Parlor	9:00 am
	Part One : Learn about the Episcopal Church and its history		
March 3, 2012	Newcomer Reception	Wilt's	6:00 to 8:00 pm
March 18, 2012	Newcomer Orientation	Library	11:15 am
	Part Two : Learn about the Holy Trinity Church and its history		
April 22, 2012	Newcomer Wrap up	Parlor	9:00 am

Please call: Kris Lidinsky (561-624-2404) or
Bonnie Weaver (561-588-7523) with any questions.

OUTREACH

FEBRUARY PROJECT C.R.O.S. FOOD PANTRY

Please bring in non-perishable food and we will continue to do continuous distribution to the food pantries.

The requested food items are :

Macaroni and cheese

Rice

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Soup

Receptacles for these items will be located in the hallway outside of the Gift Shop.



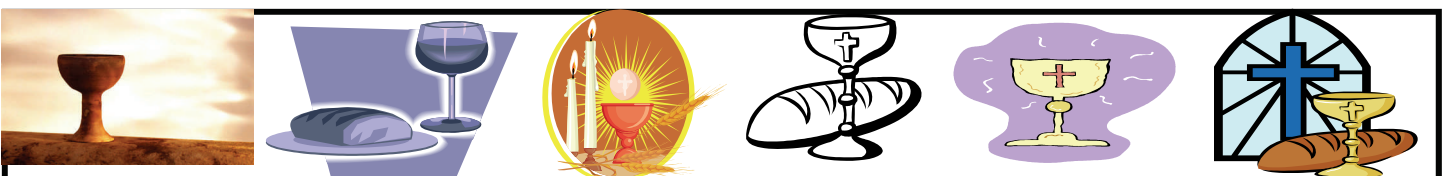
A note about First Holy Communion

The celebration of the Lord's Supper is at the heart of Christian worship. This special Eucharist is a service of a thanksgiving feast and we should include every baptized member of the church to join us at the altar rail. First Holy Communion class is our way to incorporate our families into this event. Some of these children have been receiving the host and wine for several years through the permission of their parents and the clergy. The Episcopal Church believes that as each of these children grows, the meaning for each worshiper will vary with the needs at particular points in his or her life. Some deeply-cherished meanings for adults would be beyond the comprehension of small children. However, it is our hope that each person continually grows in the celebration of the Eucharist. All baptized persons can grow in new knowledge of the Eucharist and we begin to help our children grow by joining in this special class taught on their level of understanding.

First Holy Communion Class is offered this year to all children in second grade and higher. Please call Elizabeth Brown 655-8650 to enroll your child or for more information or questions.

Classes will be held at 10 am each Sunday during the Sunday School hour.

The dates for this year's classes are February 19th and 26th, and March 4th and 11th. On March 25th the children will receive their first communion.





2012 seems to be getting off to a great start for our youth group! We had 14 youth attend our **Lock In MLK** weekend! We had a wonderful time learning new music, worshiping together and having fun! We spent the next day at a Ropes Course at FAU and tested our team work and courage! As we look toward this exciting New Year, we have much to be excited about, and much to be grateful for from 2011.

We will continue to have a gathering on the last Sunday of every month with our youth and their parents, but starting this month we have the added pleasure of Lindsay Blount and Keelan O'Carroll who will be joining us for the music and worship portions of the night! We are also going back to meeting every Wednesday at 5:30 for dinner, fellowship and fun with the High School and Middle School Students.

But one of the most exciting things to look forward to this year is the Mission Trip in July to Rutland, MA and Boston, MA. We will spend 4 days at Overlook Farms where we will be working with Heifer International to combat hunger and poverty in the world. Then we will be giving our time in Boston to local charities that serve the hungry here in the US. Please start to pray for our mission team who will have to complete many requirements to go on this trip including fundraising and service. They are Emily Eldridge, Alison Eldridge, Sarah Dolce, Mason Farnan, Mei Lin O'Malley, Emily Hammell, Malley Puc, Savannah Lambert, Libby Parker, Maeve Hedstrom and Brittany Thornton.

We will have two "junior" chaperones, Aryn Eldridge and Jackie Lalonde, who were dedicated youth members until they graduated last year and have even kept in touch with our youth group while away. We will also be joined by Julie Dolce and Fr. Charles Browning who have so graciously volunteered to be with us on this trip. Please keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming fundraisers, including the Youth Auction, held at this year's Generous Hearts Dinner on Friday, February 10th and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 21st.

I think this is shaping up to be a fantastic year for our youth! Please continue to pray for us and support us as we journey together in Christ.

Thank You,
Sarah Lidinsky
Youth Director



Usually during this time of year is when I start thinking about my Lenten fast.

Will I give up meat? Will I avoid Facebook or TV?

Will I do something more socially-conscious like giving up all but four changes of clothes in order to share solidarity with the majority of the world? Or will I give up shoes, like my best-friend did one year?

Or will I do what another friend does and “give up giving up” something? Meaning, will I start doing things that I normally don't do, like make it a point to always let someone merge in my lane in traffic? Or get out and offer assistance to any stalled car I see?

It's easy to get lost in a mix of possibilities when it comes to the Lenten fasts. So often it becomes tempting to, as the author Donald Miller puts it, “offer up bigger and brighter lambs for the slaughter” and miss the point of Lent entirely—which is to focus on our mortality as humans.

For me, there's always that tension with avoiding practicing my piety in public. Jesus tells us not to do it because our fasting isn't supposed to be something done for show. But the season of Lent offers so many opportunities to fast for a *purpose*.

Last year, a man gave up everything except beer for Lent. He had read that certain sects of brewing monks used to do the same thing. And the guy blogged about it. His hope was to treat his fasting as an opportunity for evangelism. I mean, a lot of people were going to find it interesting that a man chose to drink beer for Jesus.

But, where's the mortality in that? Where does this move from piety and into self-promotion?

I write this not knowing the answer. It's my hope that I can inspire you all to think about Lent in such a way that moves past rote ritual and into something intentional and deeply spiritual.

Because, honestly, there are few things more radical in our world today than to focus on the fact that we die. Death is the thing that much of our world spends insane amounts of money trying to cure. But every year around this time, the Church confronts us with the radical notion: you are dust and to dust you shall return. And then we fast. To remind ourselves for 40 days that we will die.

Death is unsettling because it reminds us how not-in-control of our lives and bodies we are. For the Christian, death is a reminder that there is something beyond us. Death is a signifier of God's reality and God's work. To ignore death is to ignore God.

And to ignore God is to ignore the promise made on Easter. That death is without its sting and that we will be brought into a new life.

But for now we fast. For now we look at what it means to be human, to be mortal. What this flesh of ours means to God that God would become mortal like us, take on this flesh, and redeem it.

In this way, unsurprisingly, Lent is—as with everything else in the Church—about Jesus.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
211 Trinity Place
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

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