



Trinity Tidings March 2009

www.trinitytidings@hotmail.com

From the Rector:

Each morning I like to drink a cup of coffee on the porch and watch the sun come up. For a few months, this ritual has begun in the dark; the only illumination from the street lights. The other day, I noticed that the street lights have turned themselves off, extinguished by the early morning sunlight. Each day after the winter equinox, the amount of light increases by about four minutes per day. That is just too imperceptible for me to notice. It seems that that all of those minutes are added to my day all at once; darkness suddenly gives way to the light, and the sun, absent for so long in the morning, makes an abrupt but welcome appearance.

Lent has come upon me just as quickly. As of this writing, Ash Wednesday will be here next week, and with it, the season of Lent. Lent can be a long or a short season for me depending on my need to get through the darkness. Sometimes I am so anxious to get through Lent and back to the light of the resurrection experience, that I start the Lenten season by taking a big breath, imagining that I can hold it until the Easter Vigil.

But then I remind myself, that that is not what Lent is all about. And that is what I want to remind you of as well. There is a great temptation to try to get through Lent as quickly as possible, and get to the sound of “Hail Thee Festival Day” and the smell of lilies on Easter morning as quickly as we can. We want to get passed this disconcerting season that reminds us both of the shortness and frailty of human life, and the sadness and tragedy of Jesus’ last days.

There is value in making time to experience a Holy Lent. Nobody really looks forward to having a personal conversation with oneself and with God. It is shocking and scary to really look into that mirror. But that is the invitation of Lent. Lent is a time to examine our lives and find those areas where we might have distanced ourselves – knowingly or unknowingly – from God and from one another. Lent gives us the opportunity to reorient ourselves to God and to acknowledge problems in our lives. It is at least a time to acknowledge that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we have a lot of work to do to be good citizens of God’s Kingdom.

If we take the time to observe a Holy Lent, and do some serious introspection and thoughtful amendment of life, then Easter becomes even more special. Easter does not just stay a commemorative holiday where we celebrate the empty tomb and the risen Lord, but it becomes a time to celebrate our own reconnection with God and with each other at the end of our Lenten journey. We acknowledge that we can become a new creation with the help of God’s grace and a lot of hard work changing our ways and amending our lives to receive that grace. As the Spanish mystic John of the Cross wrote, “Whatever is received is received according to the mode of the receiver.”

Easter will be here soon enough. During this Lenten season, consider having a conversation with yourself and with God. Look into that mirror and honestly seek that in yourself that needs to change in order to achieve wholeness. Lent is an opportunity to face ones fears, desires, faults, and hopes and re-prioritize them.

*Lord, enfold me in the depths of your heart; and there hold me,
refine, purge, and set me on fire,
raise me aloft,
until my own self knows utter annihilation.*

Teilhard de Chardin



Lenten Meditations

Many Trinitarians have written meditations for this Lenten season based on readings from the Episcopal Daily Lectionary. This year, for a variety of reasons, Trinity will not publish a booklet of these meditations. Instead, daily meditations will be sent by email. If you already receive church emails from Fr. Bill, you will receive these meditations. If you have not given Fr. Bill your email address, and would like to receive the meditations, please send your email address to him at wgstroop@earthlink.net.

Bring Your Can to Church Sunday

The Hattiesburg Coalition on Homelessness is working to help local food pantries in their desperate need to replenish food stocks since the holidays. Salvation Army, Breadbasket, and others are in great need. The homeless coalition has set up **Bring Your Can to Church Sunday** as the first Sunday of every month—each month's nonperishable gleanings will go to a specified charity. 1-2-1 Haven House, which has deep roots in Trinity, is one of the pantries to be helped. So: **Bring Your Can to Church, Sunday, March 1.**

Children's Church Activity Bags

Hanging on a bright blue rack, there are bags in the narthex to be used by the children during the service. In the bags are crayons and pages to color. Please have your children pick up a bag as they enter the sanctuary. After the service, feel free to take the used materials home and return the bags and crayons to the narthex rack.

Hymns for February

March 1

- 149 Eternal Lord of love, behold your church
- 142 Lord, who throughout these forty days
- 559 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
- 609 Eternal Father, strong to save

March 8

- 401 The God of Abraham praise
- 707 Take my life and let it be
- 675 Take up your cross
- 691 My faith looks up to thee
- 637 How firm a foundation



March 15

- 518 Christ is made the sure foundation
- 409 The spacious firmament on high
- 456 O love of God, how strong and true
- 141 Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun
- 142 The glory of these forty days

March 22

- 530 Spread, O spread, thou mighty word
- 467 Sing, my soul, his wondrous love
- 686 Come, thou fount of every blessing
- 671 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
- 620 Jerusalem, my happy home

March 29

- 473 Lift high the cross
439 What wondrous love is this
170 To mock your reign, O dearest Lord
474 When I survey the wondrous cross
495 Hail, thou once despised Jesus

2009 Altar Flowers

There are only 5 open dates for flower sponsorships. If you are interested in sponsoring flowers on one of these dates, please contact the church office (601-544-5551).

**Dates still available are: July 26, August 30, September 13,
October 25 and November 8**

Pot Luck Dinner for Trinity and Ascension Council Volunteers

Trinity and Ascension volunteers will have a potluck dinner at Trinity on Thursday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall to celebrate a most successful 182 Annual Council held at the Hattiesburg Lake Terrace Convention Center. Trinity will provide the meat. Trinity & Ascension volunteers will bring side dishes of all kinds. Soft drinks and tea will be provided. If you like, bring a bottle of your favorite wine! So, if you were involved in any way with Council, come and let's celebrate a job well done.

Ben Carmichael
Trinity Sr. Warden

Tuesdays at Trinity

It is once again time for the Tuesdays at Trinity Concert and Lunch Series. And again we have an excellent group of performers, including our own Merry Marthas, who will prepare delicious lunches for us at a cost of \$7.00 per plate. The concerts begin on **March 3** at 12:00 noon with a performance by cellist **Alexander Russakovsky**. On **March 10**, **Lawrence Gwozdz** will perform a saxophone recital. Due to spring break, we will skip March 17. **Maryann Kyle** will perform a vocal recital on **March 24**, and the last in the series will be an organ recital performed by **John Paul** on **March 31**. Please bring your friends and family for this excellent series, a wonderful way to spend your lunch hour.

Garth—The Church Cat

For those of you who were wondering, Garth is a BOY! At Thanksgiving, he was humanely trapped, taken to the vet (what every cat loves), where he was neutered, vaccinated, dewormed, and got his three year rabies vaccination.

Garth is now about a year old, and enjoying all the food brought by parishioners to feed him.

(No church fees have been or will be spent on his vet fees and food.)



Lent Brings Change to Worship

By Fr. Bill

The church year is divided into six major seasons. It has become traditional to mark the seasons of the church year through the use of colors, and changes in the Sunday Eucharistic liturgies and music. Lent, being the most penitential season of the year is marked by the use of the color purple or lavender. On Ash Wednesday, the hangings, altar decorations, and vestments change from the green color of the post-Epiphany period to purple, and they remain purple until Lent ends on the Saturday before Palm Sunday.

Oftentimes, if a church does not normally have a vessel of holy water out during the rest of the year, such a vessel is placed in the church during Lent so that as people enter the nave (church) they may dip their fingers in it before crossing themselves. Such gestures are not for everyone, but some people find such gestures meaningful, spiritual actions especially during the Lenten season. We will have a bowl of holy water at Trinity for those who wish to partake.

Another change you will notice in church during Lent is the use of unleavened wafers of bread instead of baked communion bread. The use of leavened or unleavened bread for communion is one of those “traditions” that has changed over time. For about 1000 years, unleavened bread was the norm for the church, but for the past 1000 years, the Eastern Catholic churches (except the Armenian) use leavened bread, while the Roman Catholic Church in the West uses unleavened bread. This change came about gradually, but by the time of the schism between the Eastern and Western Churches in 1054, the divergence over the leavening of communion bread was a cause of dissention. In the Church of England tradition, leavened bread has been the custom since 1552 (and indeed supported by a rubric in that prayer book). A number of Anglican liturgies today specifically permit the use of either kind of bread, but most make no mention of the matter, leaving the choice up to local custom. I like to change from leavened bread to the wafers in Lent as a way of marking the season of Lent as different from the flanking seasons of Epiphany and Easter, and the servers often use different words when administering the sacraments of bread and wine to further emphasize the season of the year.

Lent is often characterized by austerity and somberness. A common thing that many churches in the Anglican tradition do at this time of year is to put away the

silver and the brass or gold fixtures and vessels of the altar and use less ornate, simpler implements made of wood, glass, or ceramic. Sometimes the number of candles is reduced as well. At Trinity this year, we will put away the silver Eucharistic vessels and replace them with simpler glass ones. And when the silver returns on Easter, it will seem even more glorious when it is surrounded by all those Easter lilies. Another austere way we will mark the Lenten season is by processing in and out of the services in silence.

The language we use and the musical settings during Lent are also more subdued. We “put away” the Alleluias, and the *Gloria in excelsis* is replaced with the *Kyrie eleison* or the *Trisagion*.

Instead of the customary priest’s blessing at the end of the service during Lent, the church commends the use of the solemn blessing for Lent from The Book of Occasional Services (seasonal blessings are also used during Advent, Epiphany, Christmas, and certain other seasons of the church year).

On the First Sunday in Lent, we will recite the Great Litany. At the 8 a.m. service the litany will read, and at the 10:30 a.m. service it will be chanted in procession. The litany, as a prayer form, is a set of supplications said or sung by a cantor, deacon or priest, and followed by set responses from the people. Predating Christianity, the litany form of prayer was used by other religions, including Judaism. The litany we use today was assembled by from many sources including the Roman litanies, Luther’s litany, the litany for rogation, and the litany of St. John Chrysostom. The current rubrics call for the Great Litany to be “said or sung, kneeling, standing, or in procession...” Indeed, in the earliest days of Anglicanism, it was prescribed that the Litany be chanted in procession. After the first Sunday in Lent, we will begin the service with the Penitential Order from the Prayer Book. This effectively “moves” the confession to the front of the service.

The form of the Eucharistic Prayer (the Great Thanksgiving) during Lent we will use at Trinity is Form C, found on page 369 (cf) of the Book of Common Prayer. This prayer is considered by church liturgists to be the most penitential of the Eucharistic Prayers in the American prayer book, and particularly well suited for the Lenten season.

I hope that this helps you understand some of the changes that will occur in our worship during this season, and that you have a holy and productive Lent.

Abbreviated Minutes of the January 21, 2009 Vestry Meeting

2009 Budget. Mr. Leighton Lewis presented the 2009 budget. The vestry discussed including \$1200 per year to support the nursery. A motion was made and approved to move that amount was moved from the Search Committee Expense Budget to the Nursery Budget.

Landscaping Contract. Mr. Leighton Lewis, Jr. highlighted changes from the previous contract. The vestry voted to approve the new contract.

Payment for Fused Glass Cross. Mrs. Chris Tardy presented the plans for a fused glass cross to be made by Mr. John Delancy and Mrs. Chris Tardy for the upcoming Council meeting of the Diocese. The vestry voted to provide \$1000 for the cross. The cross will be the property of the church to be used as a memorial for loved ones passed.

Parish Activities Mardi Gras Luncheon. Mrs. Cathy Dodds reported that there will be a Mardi Gras luncheon in the Parish Hall on Sunday, February 22, 2009 instead of a Fat Tuesday party. Plans are also in progress for an Easter pot luck lunch.

Election Committee. Dr. Ben Carmichael explained that the Rector and departing Vestry members are responsible for counting ballots for the Vestry election. The cut off for receiving ballots is Friday, January 23, 2009 at noon. Ballots will be counted that afternoon at 5:15 pm. Mrs. Chris Tardy said that the upcoming issue of The Tidings would be delayed so that it can include information about the annual Parish meeting and Vestry election results.

Children's Sunday School. Because of the retirement of Mrs. Jody Link and Mrs. Leslie Hutt as children's Sunday school teachers, volunteers are needed for this high priority program.

Annual Parish Meeting. On Sunday, February 25, the church will have one combined worship service followed by the Annual Parish meeting.

Flower Guild. Mrs. Libby Lewis has volunteered to take over the Flower Guild.

Fr. Stroop's job search. Fr. Stroop was unable to attend the vestry meeting, but provided the status of his search process to the vestry by email.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.



182nd Annual Council: Hangings by Barbara Parker; High Cross by John Delancey, Josh Delancey, Brantley Davis, and TTTF (picture from Diocese web-site).

Council News

The following is a letter received from Ascension.

February 17, 2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers at Trinity,

We have just completed a most wonderful 182nd Diocesan Council. From the outset of a process that began about 15 months ago to the packing up of stuff to go to Tupelo for the 183rd Council, it was a genuine pleasure for us.

Hard work? Yes!

New relationships formed? Yes!

Details attended to? Yes!

Issues worked out for the benefit of all those attending? Yes!

Great food and entertainment? Yes!

Beautiful appointments in the main hall and chapel? Yes!

Glorious music? Yes!

Informational exhibits? Yes!

And for us, a renewed appreciation for our ability to work together for the spread of the word of God and the ministry of the church in our community, in this time.

Thank you all.

From your Sisters and Brothers at Ascension

Where Kids Connect

Sunday School Classes



**Ages: 3-5
6-8
9-12**

Starting March 1

9:15 to 10:15

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

2 Fred Drews III
Jarrod Adam Hood

3 L. A. Rogers
Joe Clements

4 Greg Brett

5 Blue Giles

6 T. J. Landry

7 David Bomboy
Robert Heithaus

8 Kristen Eidman

11 Catherine Brahan
Lauren Link

12 Susan Rutland

13 Bobby Steadman

14 Ann Brinkley

17 Bryce Mitchell

16 Regiel Napier

18 Phyllis Weaver

19 Jo Walker
Melanie Reynolds

20 Gibson Smith
Martha Jane Curry
Travis Murchison

21 Janet Van Nostrand
Suzette Durden

22 Coco Sutherland
Hilton Anderson

24 Lynn Harris
Samantha Clements
Jane Butler

26 Leslie Hutt

27 Hudson Garner

28 Will Bomboy
Henry Bivins

30 Jimmy Voss

***IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS LISTED
INCORRECTLY OR OMITTED, PLEASE
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.***

Please pray for those who have asked our prayers:

Bobby & Betty Steadman
Betty & Charlene McSwain
Bettie Webb
Sharon Weathersby
Angie McMillen
Pat Green
Josh DeLancey
Curt Weaver
Jo Bissell
Kay Tallirico
Dessa Hinton
Gerald Morris
Ellen Ciurczak
Coco Sutherland
Tom Fry
Kathryn Brumfield
Edwina Grimsley
Jan May
Earlene Ledford
John Friedman
Sandy Lee
Joy Smith
Grant Oden
Denise Brown
Nicole Marquez
Howard Walker
Nancy Bryant
Carol North
Paul Ruff
Mary Byrd
Eddie Hendrix
Caden Allen
Fred Wilson
Kenley Baker
Sonya Martin
Tommy Thompson
Morris Poole
Marie Hrostowski Porter
Marcie Howard

Our homebound and retirement home residents:

Marge West
Kathryn M. Jones
Willana Price
S. Mortimer Wainwright
Eloise Gray
Bobby Steadman

For our men & women serving our country:

Airman John O. Sutherland
Blake Heidelberg
Kevin Lewis
LTC Beau Eidt
Joseph Duncan
Major Patrick Walden
SFC Shawn Walden
1LT Paul Waldoff
Sr. Airman Rian Eason
Wesley Prevsch (Former Trinity Play
School Student)

For our Seminarian

Jody Burnett

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8:00 am Holy Eucharist 8:30 am Coffee Hour 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Rectors Forum 9:15 am Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour 3:00 pm Inquirers/Confirmation Class 5:00 pm EYC</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast 8:45 am EFM 9:00 am Merry Martha's cooking 9:30 am Pine Meadows Service</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast 12 noon Tuesday's @ Trinity Alexander Russakovasky, Cello Accompanist: Theresa Sanchez 12:30 pm Lunch (\$7 per plate) 2:00 pm Centering Prayer 5:15 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30 am HE & Healing 4:00 pm Staff meeting 5:30 pm Microindustry Mission Mtg. 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast 6:30 pm Pot Luck Dinner for Trinity & Ascension Council Volunteers in the Parish Hall</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast 6:30-8:30 pm Movie Night at Trinity for 5 - 11 year olds</p>	7
<p>8</p> <p>8:00 am Holy Eucharist 8:30 am Coffee Hour 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Rectors Forum 9:15 am Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour 3:00 pm Inquirers/Confirmation Class 5:00 pm EYC</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast 8:45 am EFM 9:00 am Merry Martha's cooking 9:30 am Pine Meadows Service 1:30 pm St. Anne's Guild</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast 12 noon Tuesday's @ Trinity Lawrence Gwozdz, Saxophone Accompanist: Amber S. Nicholson 12:30 pm Lunch (\$7 per plate) 2:00 pm Centering Prayer 5:15 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 am HE & Healing 4:00 pm Staff meeting 5:30 pm Daughters of the King 5:30 pm Microindustry Mission Mtg. 6:00 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast 11:45 am St. Francis Guild</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast</p>	14
<p>15</p> <p>8:00 am Holy Eucharist 8:30 am Coffee Hour 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Rectors Forum 9:15 am Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour 3:00 pm Inquirers/Confirmation Class 5:00 pm EYC</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast 8:45 am EFM 9:30 am Pine Meadows Service</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast 2:00 pm Centering Prayer 5:15 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 am HE & Healing 4:00 pm Staff meeting 5:30 pm Microindustry Mission Mtg. 6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast 10:00 am Tidings News DEADLINE Email to: trinitytidings@hotmail.com</p>	21
<p>22</p> <p>8:00 am Holy Eucharist 8:30 am Coffee Hour 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Rectors Forum 9:15 am Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour 3:00 pm Inquirers/Confirmation Class 5:00 pm EYC</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast 8:45 am EFM 9:00 am Merry Martha's cooking 9:30 am Pine Meadows Service 5:15 pm Finance Commission Meeting</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast 12 noon Tuesday's @ Trinity Mary Ann Kyle, Soprano Accompanist: Barbara Fortenberry 12:30 pm Lunch (\$7 per plate) 2:00 pm Centering Prayer 5:15 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30 am HE & Healing 10:00 am Fold Tidings 4:00 pm Staff meeting 5:15 pm Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm Microindustry Mission Mtg. 6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast</p>	28
<p>29</p> <p>8:00 am Holy Eucharist 8:30 am Coffee Hour 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Rectors Forum 9:15 am Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour 3:00 pm Inquirers/Confirmation Class 5:00 pm EYC</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast 8:45 am EFM 9:00 am Merry Martha's cooking 9:30 am Pine Meadows Service</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00 am HE & Breakfast 12 noon Tuesday's @ Trinity John Paul, Organist 12:30 pm Lunch (\$7 per plate) 2:00 pm Centering Prayer 5:15 pm Bible Study</p>				