



Trinity Tidings September, 2008

www.trinitytidings@hotmail.com

From the Rector:

As many of you know, I am a collector and reader of books. I put it that way, because I buy some books to just “have and to hold” until such time as the need arises to read them. Other books I buy and read right away. And yet others I come back to time and time again. One book in that latter category is called *A Field Guide to U.S. Congregations: Who’s Going Where and Why* by Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002). The authors decided to conduct a survey of worshipers because there had been less research done about congregational life than there had been about birds, plants, animals, and SUVs. To fix this problem, the U.S. congregational life survey was conducted on 300,000 worshipers. What makes this book valuable is that it provides some solid reasons for outreach work and congregational development. It doesn’t give blueprints for growth, but it does provide some directional arrows.

How about some facts? Sixty-one percent of all worshipers are female. The *average* age of a worshiper is 50 years, which is 6 years older than the country’s average age. Half are employed, and 30% have college degrees or post-baccalaureate education. Most worshipers are married. Most are Caucasian. The average size of a

congregation is 110 *active* participants of all ages. If one counts members who are 18 and older, then the average size of a congregation is 80 members.

Data from the survey show that there are three positive predictors of growth—caring for children and youth, welcoming new people, and participating in the congregation. Our work to develop our youth programs, the special music programs offered at Trinity throughout the year, our outreach programs, particularly to Mary Bethune School and 121 Haven House, the blood drives, and the wonderful plans developed by the Parish Activities and Christian Education Commissions for this year all speak to these growth characteristics.

The Field Guide also suggests other factors that will help a congregation grow. One of these is to increase visibility of the congregation in the community. The production of the TV commercial we aired last fall is another way we have shown the community where we are and what we are about as a group of people seeking answers to deep spiritual questions. Our web site (<http://www.trinityhattiesburg.org>) is another good way we have advertised our church locally and across the U.S.

But, all of our programs and initiatives pale beside the single most important reason a person might choose to come to Trinity. According to the survey, almost half of people who attend a church for the first time did so because they were invited by a current member! And these people were not people who never attended church. Sixty-seven percent were people who had attended church elsewhere recently; only 13% were “unchurched” folks. When was the last time you made a personal invitation to someone to come to Trinity? If it has been a while (or, if you’ve never done this), please do so! Personal hospitality is the key to growth.

Your vestry and I are constantly seeking ways to grow our Church and to broaden our involvement in the community. I hope you

will help us by doing the one thing that only you can do: show some good old fashioned hospitality, and invite a friend to church. The fall is a great time to do this—especially for people who might have moved to Hattiesburg during the summer. I think that once someone comes, the welcoming attitude of our people, our style of worship, and the depth and breadth of our ministry and programs will address their spiritual needs.



CONGRATULATIONS

We give thanks for the August 14th birth of Riley Elizabeth Nichols, daughter of Chris and Jessica Nichols of Collierville, TN, and granddaughter of Clark and Beth Callahan. Riley weighed 7 lbs., 9 oz., and was 21 inches long.

We give thanks for the August 19th birth of Wyatt Eli Bates, son of Lynn and Bryon Bates of Lose Angeles, California, and grandson of David and Jane Butler. Wyatt weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz., and was 18 long. He is also welcomed by his brother, Jacob.

TIDINGS NEWS OCTOBER DEADLINE

The deadline for your October news will be Friday, September 19th. We will fold the Tidings on Wednesday, September 24 at 10 a.m. News can be emailed to:

trinitytidings@hotmail.com

Chris Tardy has volunteered to compose the Tidings each month. Thank you, Chris.

Guild News

St. Anne's Guild

On Monday, September 8 at 1:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall, St. Anne's Guild will start its year with "Textiles of the 20's 30's and 40's" by Barbara Parker. She will discuss colorful retro household cottons such as tea towels, potholders and tablecloths. She will display some of her own collection. This is the 4th visit of Antiques Roadshow to Trinity. Please bring your own vintage textiles to show them off. Visitors are very welcome.

St. Francis' Guild

St. Francis Guild will meet Thursday, September 11 at 11:45 a.m. for lunch, prepared by Sharon. Cost is \$6.00 per plate. Please call the church office by Tuesday, September 9 to reserve your spot. Guest speaker will be Cathy Garner.

Commissions

"Thank you" to Susan Smith, who has volunteered to chair the Altar Guild Commission.

We are looking for someone to volunteer to chair our Calling and Caring Commission. If you are interested, please call the church office.

Hattiesburg Concert Band

The City of Hattiesburg Concert Band, under the direction of Dr. Sherman Hong, will begin its 26th season with a free concert September 14, at 3 p.m., at the Saenger Theater. Guest Conductor will be Dr. Lawrence Gwozdz (USM Music Professor) and guest soloist will be Matthew Pickering, Tuba (JCJC faculty member). Members of Trinity are cordially invited to perform with the band—just contact Sherman for more information.

Thanks for your help.
Sherman



Back-to-School Bash

On Wednesday, September 24, at 6 p.m., the Parish Activities Commission is hosting a “Back-to-School Bash” at Champion Bowling Lanes for Trinity families. Please call the church office (601-544-5551) to reserve your sport by Wednesday, September 17. Cost is \$5.00 per person. Come enjoy 2 games of bowling, pizza, ice cream, and drink. *For reservations made after September 17, the cost is \$10.00 per person.* If you have any questions, please call Cathy Dodds, 601-261-5553.

News from Mary Bethune

Jackie Binion and the staff from Mary Bethune want everyone at Trinity to know how appreciative, and nearly overwhelmed, they and students are for the piles of good things given by the congregation. Not to mention the mysterious donor of the large gift card! It took many trips between car and building to carry it all in, even with the a.v. cart in play. Over the years we have worked together, the school has come to think of our church as a true partner in education.

Ms. Binion, and the principal Ms. Brown, will be presenting their thanks and plans for this school year, and their hopes for continued Trinity involvement, between services on September 21st. Be on the look-out for more details.

For Your Information: By Bill Stroop

As many of you know, with the permission of the Bishop and the vestry, I used one of my days off per week to teach a class at the University during Spring Semester (January-May, 2008) to help a department at USM with a staffing problem. I wanted to let you know that the staffing issue was solved, and I will not be teaching at the university at any time in the future.

Help Wanted: Teach Them to Fish

Teach Them to Fish needs people to help with non-craft/glass skills: marketing, bookkeeping, filling out paperwork for grants, non-profit status, etc. See John Delancey or Chris Tardy if you would like to help with this mission to Honduras in any category.

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN: RALLY DAY

Greetings Friends:

Due to Lauren Wainwright's sudden resignation and early departure to a new full-time job, it has fallen on me to try to coordinate the Rally Day plans. For that reason, I am asking the Commission and Guild Chairs and their Vestry liaison persons to prepare a table display representing the various activities at Trinity. Lauren has signs, some display materials, sign-up sheets, and banners we can use. We will set up our own large rectangular tables. You are welcome and encouraged to bring your own card tables if you prefer. Those asked to participate are:

Christian Education Commission: Marie Pope and Anna Laura Brett
New Member Ministries: Jody Link, Chris Tardy, and Betsy McIntire
Liturgy: Father Bill, Burn Curry, and Mike Watkins
Parish Activities Commission: Kathy Dodds and Jan Van Nostrand
Outreach: Beejee Dickson and Kathy Garner
Caring and Calling: Pam and Regiel Napier
Property Commission: Meg Puckett, Jimmy McKenzie, Robert Cox
Stewardship and Finance: Garland Sullivan and Fred Swanson
Altar Guild: Libby Lewis
Brotherhood of St. Andrew: Peter Ciurczak
Flower Guild: Sharon Weathersby
Merry Marthas: Mary Virginia McKenzie
Daughters of the King: Doris Bradley
St. Anne's Guild: Alice Carol Gray
St. Cecelia's Guild: Susan Smith and Jo Howard
St. Francis' Guild: Mildred Hong and Ina Carlton
Ushers' Committee: Gretchen Grimsley
Acolytes: Burn Curry and Vergers
Choir: Jane Butler



If for whatever reason you are unable or unwilling to serve in these requested assignments, and be present to man your tables on September 7th, please let me know so that we can make other arrangements.

Thanks in advance,
Ben Carmichael, Senior Warden

Our Thanks and Best Wishes to
Lauren Wainwright

As many of you know, our Christian Education Director and EYC Director, Ms. Lauren Wainwright, has accepted a new position as Youth Director at The Church of the Epiphany in Guntersville, AL. Monday, August 18th was her last day at Trinity, and on Sunday August 24th we held a Going-Away Reception for her in the Parish Hall. In her year as the head of the Christian Education Commission and Director of EYC programming, Lauren provided nurturing guidance to our young people, assisted with Sunday School programming, initiated and directed the 9:15 a.m. Sunday Children's Youth Hour and Summer Chapel, and greatly re-energized the EYC program. She planned the absolutely wonderful Children's Worship Service this past year, and contributed greatly to our programs as a Congregation for Children. Lauren is a very highly trained and experienced youth director, having taken many of the Diocesan training programs for youth and children's programming. Most importantly, she lives out her Christian calling to love and serve all of God's people; she cares deeply for our children and youth and has incredible passion for youth ministry. As much as we all miss her enthusiasm and dedication, we wish her God Speed in her new ministry, and our prayers go with her as she continues her journey.

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 it 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.

Please let the church know:

If you need to get information to a member of Trinity's staff, this list will help you find the correct person, along with their phone number.

Hospital stays	Father Bill	601-329-3538
Add someone to the prayer list	Linda	601-544-5551
Information about choir	Jane	601-544-5551
Ask a question or express a concern	Father Bill	601-329-3538

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 email address to the church, I might not have it. Please note that no email addresses 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 collection plate. The counterslip to me. Thanks for your co-
slip into the
will get these
operation.

Fr. Bill



NAME _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

PERSONAL WEB PAGE _____



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.

Office closed

Monday, September 1, 2008
Labor Day

September Birthdays:

1. Darby Burghard
2. Vicky Garraway
3. Pat Hays
5. Jeff R. Bowman
6. David Carmichael
Gunner Carmichael
Wanda Touchstone
7. Bret Henson
8. Ann Johnson
Robert Johnson
10. Sissy Ryan Thomas
Ann Chase
11. Louis Earl Rhian
George Leighton Lewis, Jr.
Laurie Lewis
Jason Earl Rhian
12. Kathy Polk
Cathy Dodds
Christina Rutland
13. Nathan Patrick Shappley
Karen Little
Lynn Gammill
14. Michael Giles
16. B. J. Bourne
Lynda Savage
17. Martha Johnson
Charles Sutherland, III
Nancy Knight
18. Mary M. Clements
Bill Powe
Babs Faulk
Scott E. Klauk
19. Dan Chase
Grace Browning
Abigail Nicholson
20. Chuck Tardy
Davis Nicholson
21. Ina Carlton
22. Alex Brinkley
23. Richard Brahan
Fiona Beveridge
John DeLancey
Ron Hickman
24. Bill Browning
Forrest Burris
25. G. Leighton Lewis
Gail Young
Don Savage
27. Samuel Price Murchison
Mary Ann Cockerham
28. Mary Lucas Halliwell
Art Eidman
29. Patti Rhian
Giulia Saucier
Shannon Mitchell
30. Sonya Martin

If a birthday is listed incorrectly or is omitted, please call the parish office.

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
Angie McMillen
Pat Green
Josh DeLancey
Curt Weaver
Lyn Johnson
Margaret McIntire
The Rev. Susan Bear
Karolyn House
Judith Jones
Jo Bissell
Mary Deane McInnis
L. A. Rogers
Kay Tallirico
Dessa Hinton
Gerald Morris
Ellen Ciurczak
Dana Ragsdale
Angie Pradat
Melanie Williams
Coco Sutherland
Tom Fry
Kathryn Brumfield
Ronald Bird
Andrew Robinson
Jenny Sue Ashley
Emily Kate Smith
Joshua Cox
B. J. Andrade
Carol Ryan
Brooke Brewer
Edwina Grimsley
Rob Rankin
Joe Clark
Johnny McWilliams
John Friedman
Jan May
Kay Meachum
Margaret Nelson
Britney Nelson
Julian Perry
Earlene Ledford
Sandy Lee

Our homebound and retirement home residents:

Marge West
Kathryn M. Jones
Willana Price
S. Mortimore Wainwright

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 (Former Trinity
Play School Student)

For our Seminarian

Jody Burnett

For the Bishop's Missionary Corps



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 2:00 pm Centering Prayer 5:15 pm Bible Study	3 9:30 am HE & Healing 10:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Staff meeting 5:30 pm Daughters of the King 5:30 pm Microindustry Mission Mtg. 6:00 pm Adult Choir	4	5	6
7 RALLY DAY 8:00 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Rally Day Ministry Fair in Parish Hall 11:00: am Coffee Hour	8 8:45 am EFM 9:30 am Pine Meadows Service 1:30 pm St. Anne's Guild	9 2:00 pm Centering Prayer 5:15 pm Bible Study	10 9:30 am HE & Healing 10:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Staff meeting 5:30 pm Microindustry Mission Mtg. 6:00 pm Adult Choir	11 11:45 am St. Francis Guild	12	13
14 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 9:45 am Children's Choir 10:15 am Godly Play & Catechesis 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 11:30: am Coffee Hour	15 8:45 am EFM 9:30 am Pine Meadows Service	16 2:00 pm Centering Prayer 5:15 pm Bible Study	17 9:30 am HE & Healing 10:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Daughters of the King 5:30 pm Microindustry Mission Mtg. 6:00 pm Adult Choir	18	19 10:00 am Tidings News DEADLINE Email to: trinitytidings@hotmail.com Senior High DOY Weekend At Camp Bratton Green	20 Senior High DOY Weekend At Camp Bratton Green
21 Senior High DOY/Camp Bratton Green 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 9:45 am Children's Choir 10:15 am Godly Play & Catechesis 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 11:30: am Coffee Hour	22 8:45 am EFM 5:15 pm Finance Comm. Mtg.	23 2:00 pm Centering Prayer 5:15 pm Bible Study	24 9:30 am Morning Prayer 10:00 am Fold Tidings 10:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:15 pm Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm Microindustry Mission Mtg. 6:00 pm Adult Choir 6:00 pm Back to School Party for Youth at Champion Bowling Lanes	25	26	27
28 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 9:45 am Children's Choir 10:15 am Godly Play & Catechesis 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 11:30: am Coffee Hour	29 8:45 am EFM 9:30 am Pine Meadows Service	30 2:00 pm Centering Prayer 5:15 pm Bible Study				