

An Unexpected and Unwanted Event

I find it hard to begin to realize that Lent is just around the door. In just over two weeks into February it comes rolling in – probably unwanted, maybe unexpected. Most of us would rather continue with the “Epiphany Party”, and not be bothered with a shift into more serious work.

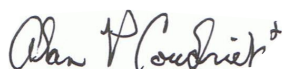
But isn't that just like God – showing up in unexpected places and times and unexpected places- maybe at undesirable times? I find it ever so humorous when people (myself included!) want to schedule their times to meet with God. Not that any sense of discipline is bad – it's just that God cannot and will not be confined into a neat little plan.

What are we to do?

We might begin by being open and aware that God can and will show up at any time. Yes, we can make appointments, but we better know that God may have bigger plans for our lives than we thought. He may just show up – anytime.

So, I'll stop lamenting the coming of Lent. It will bring its own fruit in our lives. Join me then in a wonderful two final weeks of “Light” in Epiphany-tide, but also come ready to shift gears when we are called into our Lenten fast.

May God enter your lives at all kinds of times and occasions!



(The Rev) Alan P Coudriet +
Interim Rector

Annual Meeting and Day of Discovery

Our Annual Parish Meeting was held on Sunday, January 24. The main action taken was the elections of Vestry members. Elected to 3-year terms were Barry Cunningham, Keith Hinsdale, Addy Landrio and Ellen Scalise.

Another item of action was reducing the size of vestry from 12 to 9. The motion was passed but will not take effect until after a second approval at the annual meeting in 2011.

Additional copies of the 2009 Annual Report are available in the office.

Following adjournment of the annual meeting, we enjoyed soup and bread in the parish hall before beginning our "Day of Discovery." Canon Martha Ishman and the search committee led this portion of the day as we discovered things about ourselves not only as individuals but also who we are as a parish. The information from this meeting will be used by the search committee to represent who we are and where we are being called to go in the next steps in our journey. Please continue your prayers for the search committee and this process.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY

The new Forward Day by Day booklets are here. May we all continue our discipline in participating in the parish bible study.



It's hard to pick just one meditation from last month for the newsletter. It has been discussed in our prayer groups and after coffee hour how the missionary priest (she is currently in serving in Haiti) for January has awakened many of us to ALL the things we take for granted living here in the United States. The faith of the people of Sudan can be a light for us.

Please pick up your copy of the Forward Day by Day and take an extra to give to a friend.

May the daily bible readings and meditations continue to inspire us all to engage God more fully.

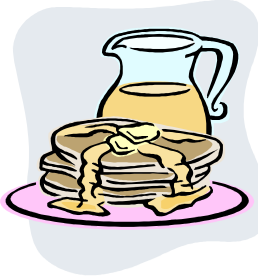
January 14—Hebrews 3:1-2

Therefore, brothers and sisters, holy partners in a heavenly calling consider that Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses also "was faithful in all God's house."

From your Search Committee, Diane Brant

The Day of Discovery started immediately after the Annual Meeting with a wonderful lunch of soup and cornbread provided by vestry. Each table became a small group where we paired off to interview each other and introduce our partner to the table. We compiled our personal best experiences at the church, what we love to do, what we look like when we are at our best. We discussed our values as Episcopalians and as members of Trinity. We listed our wishes for the future of Trinity and each table drew a picture of that vision. These pictures are hanging in the parlor. We enjoyed ourselves, laughed a lot and I think we all agreed with the long term member who said she was leaving the meeting feeling very encouraged about us and our future.

On Tuesday evening the Search Committee met with Canon Martha to begin distilling the information from the Day of Discovery. We developed a tentative Purpose Statement for the church. Next Monday we will again meet to work on our parish goals and how to begin achieving them. Note we have not yet begun talking about our new rector because we do not expect him/her to carry us into that future. Rather, we expect him/her to walk with us into the future and we plan to start walking now.



**Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
February 16**

All are encouraged to come enjoy fellowship and the Vestry's cooking talents and serving abilities as they host our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. Serving begins at 6:00 PM.



February 17

10:00 AM
Holy Eucharist &
Imposition of Ashes

6:00 PM
Holy Eucharist &
Imposition of Ashes

Lenten Program

On Wednesday Evenings during Lent we will gather together at 6:00 PM for Evening Prayer followed by a simple vegetarian and no dessert pot luck supper. Different programs will be presented by over the five weeks. Some of those making presentations include Deacon Gail—Spiritual Disciplines, Paul Boger—Dental Mission to Guatemala, Diane Brant—Centering Prayer, and Father Alan— (1994) Trip to the Holy Land.

Ash Wednesday is on February 17 with the first Lenten Program being held on February 24.

**SAFEGUARDING GOD'S
CHILDREN TRAINING**

As the many scandals over the past few years highlight, the safety of children in church settings is of utmost importance and cannot be taken for granted. The Episcopal Church has put together a three-hour training called *Safeguarding God's Children* focused on preventing and responding to child sexual abuse in everyday life and in ministry settings. *Safeguarding God's Children* is an educational program for parents, congregations, church leaders and clergy.

Our Episcopal Church Insurance, as well as our diocese, has mandated that all clergy, church staff, and volunteers interacting with children receive this training. Many at Trinity have already received the training, including the staff, but now others involved in youth activities are required to attend. This means that anyone volunteering in the nursery, in Sunday School, with Vacation Bible School, with acolytes, or helping with possible future ministries such as a youth group, children's choir or youth music program must have this training. Since *Safeguarding God's Children* covers some church specific situations, other trainings received in educational settings do not count toward this requirement. All those who may be in the building by themselves for any reason must also attend. All parents and others in the parish are also encouraged to attend.

The training begins at 10:00AM and will last approximately 3 hours on Saturday, February 27. Morning refreshments and lunch will be provided.

If you are required to attend the training a letter and return post card will be sent to you. If you are not required to but want to attend, please call the office for planning purposes for training materials and lunch.

If this date is impossible for you, another training is being offered at Holy Trinity, Brookville on Saturday, March 6 beginning at 10:00 AM.

This past year has been a challenging one. Father Adam was called to Sharon, Father Alan was called to be our interim and we have selected our search committee. Those serving on the search committee are Diane Brant, Denise Ely, Clare Glarner, Skye Hill, Dick Klancher, Tom Jensen, and Jocelin Thomas. Our search process is under way and we all need to pray for the committee and this process.

The following is a summary of what was accomplished in 2009 and plans for 2010:

- The Search Process will be a priority. The search committee will be trained by Canon Martha Ishman, a Day of Discovery is being held for the congregation's input. Bishop Sean and Canon Martha will also provide leadership. Our goal is to have a new rector by August 2010. It's in God's hands, so not to worry.
- The budget is nearly balanced due to the generous pledges and the interest income from our endowment is up due to the stock market return. Keep in mind we are nearly balanced with paying only a part-time interim rector salary and benefits. One way to increase our income is to grow our congregation. More on that later.
- In February 2010 we will be beginning our Sunday School program. There will be 2 classes with an additional a program for the parents. Giving our children a good Christian background is also a priority.
- Our Parish Bible Study will be continued and expanded using the Forward Day by Day booklet.
- Three "Concerts of Prayer" are scheduled for 2010: March 20, June 19, and September 18. Prayer is our way to communicate with God.
- Acolyte will be trained to give our children the opportunity to serve at the altar. Children are and will also read lessons and serve as ushers.
- We currently have \$130,665 in the Trinity Building Funds. A priority list has been started. We will continue to take care of the health of our building. Terry Brant and Bill Shultz have done extensive plaster work throughout the building. Quotes are being sought for repairs in the larger areas. The building is in good hands with the expertise of Jim McCollough and Terry Brant. Work bees to clean up, fix up and to paint various rooms are being planned.
- The Trinity Music Program will be expanded in 2010. We will continue to give free guitar lessons and have added a state of the art recording studio for our children. A proposed outline of the program is listed at the end of my report. The recording studio will be a growth area for not only Trinity but the whole community. One thing that is evolving from the music is a Youth Group. We also plan to have the children perform at nursing homes. The beauty of this program is low cost, with potentially high impact. Thanks be to God! A music committee is being formed. Members include Pat Hesch, Kathy Bowley, Ellen Scalise, Paul Boger and Rose Mary Landon. If you're interested, please contact me.
- Thanks to everyone for the tremendous effort in 2009. The Vestry will be doing their own strategic planning session in February to determine short term and long term goals for the parish. To accomplish our goals, again, we're going to need everyone to step forward, take part and help in 2010.

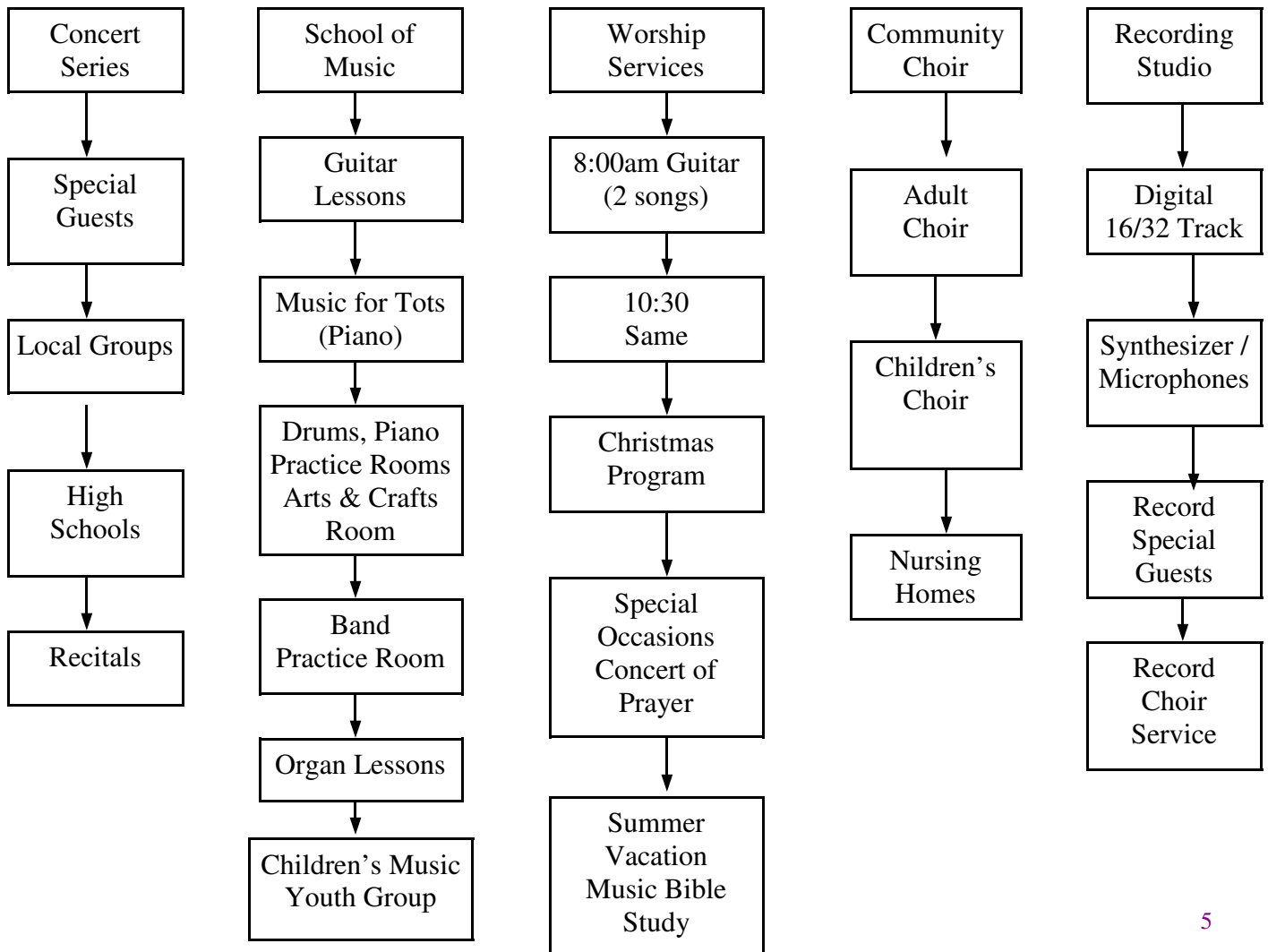
We've noticed our church attendance was down last year. That's an easy one to correct. Would you all start coming on a regular basis? For those who left, we need you back. What's in the past is behind us and we're moving forward. Another goal is to grow the congregation both spiritually and in size. Another easy one. If we all brought just one new member we would double our parish size. Invite them to church, to a bible study, Lenten Program, free guitar lessons, recording studio, etc. Another way would be offer the Forward Day by Day booklet and join our parish bible study. This is an offer of prayer and fellowship. It's that simple.

What does Trinity Memorial mean to me? It means I am a part of a big family. A good example of our parish family was our very successful Christmas Pageant. I love coming on Sundays to see my family. There are no better friends than friends in Christ. The bottom line is spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. Lots of work ahead. Can't wait to see the fruits of our labor.

As always your ideas and suggestions are welcome and you can contact any vestry member.

PRAYER, MUSIC, FELLOWSHIP AND GROWING OUR CHURCH FAMILY,
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN TO ME.
SEE YOU IN CHURCH!!!

PROPOSED TRINITY MUSIC PROGRAM (2010)



Prayer

*Written for the September 1998 Newsletter
by Deacon Chris Bauschard*

It was the proverbial squeaky wheel that started the discussion. “A little WD-40 will fix that right up.” This naturally led to discussing that indispensable, shiny, and strangely named item: duck (duct?) tape. Then a third object, without which no household is complete – the hot glue gun – rounded out the list. We laughingly concluded that any home or office needs only these three items to keep in good working order.

But when the amusement subsided, the big question occurred to me. How do we keep our prayer life in good running order? How do we create a good prayer life and how do we nurture it?

Lately, we have been reading Paul’s letter to Timothy. He urges that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone. Paul was giving Timothy the assignment of setting in order the public worship of the assembly in Ephesus, and he lists prayer first of all. There are two very good reasons for this: it sets our hearts and eyes on the presence of God; and, secondly, it puts our own humanity in perspective. Paul tells Timothy it is his desire that everyone should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or argument.

We don’t have to use special words to pray, but there are times when prayer is difficult. What tools do we need to build our prayer life and keep it running?

Perhaps the most basic truth to grasp is that God actually wants to meet us. It’s true! Because of this, we have the freedom in prayer to be exactly who we are. The first tool we will use is to be ourselves. Henri Nouwen tells us that to pray is to live. Praying is no easy matter; it demands a relationship with God in which we surrender ourselves to Him and place ourselves in His hands. Every genuine prayer gives God a chance to work for us. “Draw near to God and God will draw near to you.” (James 4:8)

Sometimes there is a need for the sort of prayer which is not spontaneous but which is truly rooted in conviction. We Episcopalians are people of the Prayer Book. The second tool we will use is our own Book of Common Prayer. We should learn and know enough of the Prayer Book to not only use it at public worship (“common prayer”), but also to use it as a guide for our private prayer. It is rich with possibilities for personal daily prayer or for prayer in times of special need.

It is difficult in our busy and active lives to be still. That is why many traditional forms of Christian prayer are very repetitive – the repetition is designed to still the mind. This is the third tool we will use: becoming still. The “Jesus Prayer” is very good. “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me a sinner” can be used as a repetitive prayer to gain inner stillness. When the inner stillness arrives, be silent. Feel God’s love. Receive the gift of discernment by letting the Spirit lead us to know what to pray for and how to pray for it.

We all come to prayer with a tangled mass of motives, but quite frankly, God is big enough to receive us. That is what grace means. Carlo Carretto tells us that prayer is the sum of our relationship



Kids in Socks!!

We are requesting donations of socks this year to be distributed with the Easter Food Baskets.

Two socks, new socks,
we are collecting all sizes of socks
for children and young adults.

Trinity Angels

Have you noticed new children making their presence known on Sunday mornings? A couple of the girls came for guitar lessons on Tuesdays. They in turn invited friends who wanted to sing. The singers have performed in the parlor between services and are looking forward to performing at both services. They have named themselves the *Trinity Angels*. This last Sunday, the five girls and Pat Hesch traveled with Gail & Barb Winslow for services at the Snyder Nursing Home in Marienville. Their next music outreach will be to the residents at Golden Living on Water Street on April 11th.

The Trinity Angels currently include Jordan & Taylor Williams (twin sisters), Lizzy Marsh, Gabby Musante, and Olivia Thompson. We expect this group to expand with the potential for a children's choir.

We are developing a schedule for our expanding youth music program including the guitar lessons, singing, recording and music for tots. Our Sunday School and music program will tie together. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to invite a friend.

As you can see from the proposed music program, some of the proposed have become reality. Thanks be to God!

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is an important ministry whose work goes on mostly unseen. Special care is taken in preparing the altar, caring for the linens and cleaning the vessels used during communion. Our worship is important so the Altar Guild prepares for each service so that worship may proceed with dignity and good order. After service they clean up and deliver the altar flowers to those who are sick and shut-ins.

An Altar Guild member may be young or not, male or female. If you are interested in serving in this ministry or have any questions, please talk to Barb Willis, 723-3017.

Treasurer's Report To January 31, 2010

Beginning Balance	\$8,240		
	Actual to 1/31/10	Budget to 1/31/2010	2010 Budget
Endowment	\$6,970	\$6,970	\$83,640
Member Contributions	\$8,134	\$10,045	\$124,545
Plate Income	\$23	\$100	\$1,200
Other Income	\$75	\$163	\$2,000
Total Income	\$15,202	\$17,278	\$211,385
Expenses	\$20,518	\$20,861	\$217,474
Difference	(\$5,316)	(\$3,583)	(\$6,089)
Ending Balance	\$2,924		

Coffee Hour Hosts

Thank you to *the Crouch family, Leslie Baldensperger, Diane Groszek and the Hill family*, for providing goodies during coffee hour in January. February is fully covered. A sign-up sheet for hosts and clean up volunteers for the months of March and April is in the narthex.



Altar Flowers

There are a two open dates before Lent on which to place flowers on the altar: February 7 and 14.

You may order two altar vases from the florist of your choice and they will pick up the liners and deliver the flowers on the Saturday before your date. Or you can make your own flower arrangements. If you have any questions and/or would like one of these dates, please call Ann Soderberg at 723-8257.

Prayer for Trinity

Almighty and gracious God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayer for the rector, vestry and parish family of Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church. By the indwelling of your Holy Spirit, enlighten and strengthen us for your service. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to know what is right, and give us courage to pursue it and grace to accomplish it. Renew us in faith, hope and charity. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, make us always thankful for your providence, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind with your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers

At Home: Denny Brown, Jon Ettinger

In nursing/assisted living homes: Ann Blackman, Mickey Ettinger, Lillian Lemmon (Cambridge), Margaret Gilson (Rouse Suites), Betty DeLong, Bernadine Goyda, Bill Anderson, (Rouse), Judy Nobles, (Warren Manor), Palmer Davis Jr. (Golden Living), Rhea Waples, (Watson Home), JoAnn Kosthorst, Eloise Metz

Illness/Surgery/Other Needs: Cody Stalder, Amy Hindman, Kathy Fleming, Cleo DiFiore, Dick, Ed Brant, Michael Brant, Billy Moriarity, Mary Klancher, Lori Brusso, Gar Spicher, Scott Mitchell, Hayden Turner, Mary Simmons, Judy Trask, Tim Strohmeier, Sam Hill, Teri Gruver, Leslie Kershaw, Kim, Jeff Washburn, Martha Phelps, Janet Ely, Lewis Conroy, Terry Brant, John Wallo, Jane Betts, Samuel Lindell, Frances, Patrick Nuhfer, Eric Lindell, Colin Hillard, Jill Lasecki, Kara Donaldson, Emily, Kurt Glarner, Dave Johnson, Nancy, Scott Brown, Sandy Lewis, Marysue Baker, Brian Knisley, Lee, Margaret Suttor, Becky Campbell, Martha Ishman, Charlie, Greg, Emily Onuffer, Denise Fink, Elaine Krill, Wendy Suder, Patty Johnson, Jaxon Madril & family, Sue Whitney, Calder, Jerry Davis, Anne Reynolds, Cindy Nelson, Sue Scofield, Jack McMaster, Pam Rea, Carol, Lisa Jackson, Peg Ploof, Bobbie Long & family, Bud & Sue McCollough

Serving in the Armed Services: Christopher Holmes, Adam Pontious, Jo Kennedy, Lenny Johnson, the 3rd Infantry Division serving in Iraq, Jake Glenn (Afghanistan), Michael Miller, Peter Landrio, Marc Miller (Italy), Parker Hahn, Cody, Toby, & Jeremy Williams, Matthew Hammond, Jackie Shaw

Serving justice and peace: Christian Peacemaker Teams; House of Hope, Birds of the Sky, and Good Samaritan House in India; Center Fabio, Ivory Coast; Asociacion Rescate, Rio Dulce Guatemala

Bishops: Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury; Katharine Jefferts Schori, our Presiding Bishop; Sean Rowe, our Bishop

Clergy: Martha Ishman, Canon to the Ordinary; Alan Coudriet, our interim rector; Gail Winslow our deacon and archdeacon of the diocese

The Vestry: Barry Cunningham, Clare Glarner, Pat Hesch-Sr. *Warden*, Keith Hinsdale-*Treasurer*, Tom Jensen, Addy Landrio, Jim McCollough - *Jr. Warden*, Elaine Rhodes, Ellen Scalise

The Search Committee: Diane Brant - chair, Denise Ely, Clare Glarner, Skye Hill, Tom Jensen, Dick Klancher, Jocelin Thomas

May the Souls of the Faithful Departed Rest in Peace

Arley Dixon

Barbara Weiland

.Let Light Perpetual Shine Upon Them.

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**Come join us Wednesday
evenings during Lent.**

February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24.

The evening schedule will be:

6:00 PM Evening Prayer

**6:15 PM Vegetarian Pot Luck Dinner
Please, no meat or desserts**

7:00 PM Program

Sunday Schedule

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal
Healing Prayer in the Chapel
Nursery available

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Coffee & Fellowship before, between and after services

Monday

7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

Wednesday

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

11:00 AM Knitting Group

12:00 PM Healing Team in the Chapel

Thursday

6:00PM Men's Bible Study
Spiritual Formation
Search Committee Meeting

Office Hours

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Monday— Friday