

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# TRINITY GRAND LEDGER

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 7      AUGUST 2009



**Summer** is nearly over and I hope that all of you have had a relaxing, invigorating, and peaceful summer this year without the usual heat and humidity. Sunday services have been very pleasant with this San Diego weather.

**The Tuesday** book discussion group led by Ann McMillan, which has been reading **'The Shack'**, a very popular bestseller by William Paul Young, is finishing on August 4 from 1 pm to 4 pm. Thanks to Ann for this great suggestion and leadership.

The **Wednesday evening Golf League**, has separated from the Lutherans and is similar to former times except that it is continuing on Wednesdays rather than Mondays as in previous years. If you wish to play, Jill Knaggs may be contacted for further information. 627-3413.

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In the continual tracking of Sunday attendance and its comparison with the same Sunday in each of the last five years, we know that **Sunday attendance in June and July was second to the same months in 2005**. Parishioners are continuing to tell me that they will be away and where they are going. Our attendance figures are a very good sign that we are growing in numbers and commitment to Christian community. The numbers reveal that 55% to 60% of the parish attends on a weekly basis and that 65% to 70% are either present or accounted for on a weekly basis. On a national basis, 33% of all parishioners attending weekly services is considered quite good. Trinity's parishioners are very faithful and I thank you for this!!

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The Episcopal Church is concerned about preventing clergy burnout. For this reason, **continuing education** events and clergy retreat times are not only encouraged but mandated. After the services on Sunday June 28, I left for one of my two annual weeks of continuing education. Beginning that evening, I enjoyed the yearly **Association of Anglican Musicians Conference** which was held this year in Hollywood. This conference week of services, concerts, and lectures was very stimulating as was the time with colleagues from across the country. The conference began with Evensong at All Saints Episcopal Church, Beverley Hills, just two days before Farrah Fawcett's funeral from that her parish church. Other conference events included concerts at the Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Hollywood Bowl.

Prior to this summer, Ann and I had not been to California. Ann flew to Los Angeles on July 4<sup>th</sup> to join me so that we could take some vacation days before the evening of July 15 when we took the 'red eye'

to the Detroit airport. During this vacation, we spent three days in Anaheim where the triennial **Episcopal Church General Convention** was being held in the Convention Center, which is adjacent to Disneyland. **Trinity was very represented at this convention:** Fr. Isaac Ihiasota a former rector whom I did not have the chance to meet and who now lives in Niagara Falls, NY was a delegate to the House of Deputies; Fr. Greg Brown, Trinity's most recent former rector, who now lives in Petoskey, MI, was a delegate to the House of Deputies from our diocese; Bill Fleener, Jr. the Chancellor of the Diocese of Western Michigan and a parishioner was a delegate from our diocese as well. We thank Bill for a thorough report of the General Convention on the last Sunday of July.

At the convention, Ann and I visited with friends from seminary and elsewhere, heard Archbishop Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury speak, and I participated in one of the daily convention-wide Eucharists by administering the consecrated bread.

As well during our vacation, we visited San Diego, drove up the coastal highway to the Hearst Castle at San Simeon and toured San Francisco. On the two Sundays that we were in California,

we attended services at St. Bart's Church in Rancho Bernardo where our friend the Rev. Judith Alison, a Canadian who was a seminary classmate, is on staff and was the preacher that Sunday and at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, where Jeffrey Smith, a Grand Rapids native, is the Music Director. We look forward to planning further visits to California!

After **Mass on the Grass** on Sunday July 19, I drove to Cambridge, MA by way of the Pocono Pines, PA, to spend a **retreat week at the Monastery of the Society of St. John the Evangelist**, with my dear friend, the Rev. 'Chip' Seadale, who is a rector in Jacksonville, FL. We have been making annual retreats to this Episcopal monastery since we were in seminary. I became associated with these monks, sometimes called the Cowley Fathers, several years before seminary, and I am a member of the Fellowship of St. John, which is made of lay persons, deacons, priests and bishops who maintain this fellowship's simple rule of life. Since clergy are not members of parishes and move many times, the connection with a place such as a monastery provides a sort of spiritual home to which we nomads may return over and over again.

While in Cambridge, I spoke with a young couple who were

visiting SSJE while I was there. It turned out that they were a brother and sister whose spouses were at home in Virginia looking after their children. The brother and sister chose to take this year's monastic visit together. Their father discovered the monastery some years ago and has gifted each of his grown children with a weekend at the monastery each year. His gift to them is something that they look forward to and treasure, even though it is a long drive from Virginia.

On June 20, I received an email message from the unnamed country in **Southeast Asia** for which we raised the money for a roof for a new church. The money was worn into that country by three of its nationals and accompanied by the banners which hung at the rear of our church and which will hang in their new edifice. Every dollar that was sent arrived and was put into the priest's hands

He will consult with the elder's of that parish about the use of the extra money that we sent. This extra money is equivalent to two year's of a priest's salary in that economy. We have been a blessing to them and I thank them for being a blessing to us through their prayers and example. The priest, whose name I will not mention in this newslet-

ter, is able to read our newsletter when he gets to the computer in his bishop's office. When he sees this newsletter, I want him to know of our admiration for him and his people. I also want him to know that we look forward to receiving pictures from him and more email messages.

As you recall, while we were raising money to give to Southeast Asia, we received ten times the hoped for amount in a grant to be used as part of the money for a new boiler. When we raised 2/3 more than anticipated for the Southeast Asia roof, we were again blessed by an anonymous gift from some stranger who was led to donate ten times the amount which was raised above our hoped for amount. God's economy is beyond our comprehension!

In June we were again on the receiving end in an unexpected way. A colleague in Canada, who did not know that I was hoping for a mechanical-action organ for Trinity, forwarded information about a congregation in Canada that was willing to give such an instrument to another congregation. I contacted them and with Vestry approval to accept this gift, local organ builder Rick Swanson and I left for Kitchener, Ontario, on Sunday June 21, where on Monday we loaded a one-manual and pedals, four rank, mechanical-action pipe organ (a Hallman-

Keates organ built by Dieter Geissler in 1971), into a rented truck with the help of my friend Angus Sheach whose business is nearby that church. Rick and I returned on Monday evening and on Tuesday June 22, we unloaded the new organ with the help of Gary Lowery, Kal Smith, Marian Stolz, and Z. Tyszkiewicz. It was then first played on Sunday June 28 by Marian Stolz and me.

Replacement value on this organ would be in the \$50,000, to \$60,000 range. We would never have considered such an extravagance for use in our worship. We are deeply thankful to Trinity United Church of Kitchener, Ontario for the gift of this organ which was built for their chapel and which had become redundant in their present situation.

A reporter from a weekly, national Canadian Christian newspaper was instructed to contact for a telephone interview about what God is doing at Trinity, Grand Ledge. I was pleased to recount these incidents in which we have been blessed tenfold. I told him that God's economy has not been affected by the downturn in the world's economy or Michigan's either. We still give and are still being blessed!

There is much more that I could say about who has led services,

Cliff Knaggs, Fr. Walton, and Tom Anderson. There is much more I could say about who is going to the Diocesan Camps and Adullam Choral Camp in Canada. There is much more I could say about those who give altar flowers, do coffee hours, volunteer in the office, work in the grounds, set up and played for Mass on the Grass, but all of that will have to wait until next month.

May God bless you in all that you do in His service and to His glory!!

Peace,

Nixon+

- 1 more Soprano
- 2 more Altos
- 1 more Bass

Please contact me if you are interested or if you know of someone whom I should approach about one of these openings. My cell number is (248) 978-5537.

Rehearsals are

- Thursday evenings (from September to the end of May) from 6:30 pm until 8:09
- Sunday mornings (from September to the end of May) from 9:15 am until 9:47

Services are

- Sundays from (September to the end of May) from 10 am until 11:14.

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I am slowly **visiting all of the parish families**. Please expect a call. I have questions. I hope that we will look for the answers together.

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On Saturday May 16, some families with children came to our home for a barbeque, games, and a discussion of the **Christian formation** program. On Saturday June 6, more families will meet at our home in Okemos. There will be a third opportunity at another time.

May God richly bless you in His service,

Nixon+

## Backpacks for SIREN/ Eaton Shelter

Trinity is putting together a backpack for the SIREN/Eaton Shelter ([www.sireneatonshelter.org](http://www.sireneatonshelter.org)). The completed backpack, along with the school supplies included with it, will need to be completed by August 17th so that SIREN can distribute the backpacks at their back to school picnic.

So here's what we, at Trinity, need to do: There will be a sign up sheet, attached to a laundry basket, in the undercroft. Please sign up for an item, or two. When you have those items, just put them in the laundry basket and put that date on the signup sheet. Remember, we want to have all the items collected by Sunday August 16th.

### A Note from the Diocese

Thanks to so many in the diocese, a total of 68 volunteers were supported in mission work at the Gulf Coast (Mississippi and New Orleans) last year. These volunteers were funded with gifts received last year. Again we are asking each parish to raise at least \$500 for this year's volunteers. If each parish participates we would be able to send at least 60 people on two mission trips to the Gulf Coast in November and December.

Any remaining monies would be used to continue "mission trip fund" for ongoing opportunities through other trips to the Gulf Coast, the Dominican Republic, and beyond.

We are all called to mission, and we look forward to you joining us in this endeavor to "seek and serve Christ in all people, loving our neighbor as ourselves".

The Community of Deacons  
Diocese of Western Michigan

### Lugnut Outing

Trinity members will be attending a Lugnut baseball game on Sunday, August 16, 2009, at 2 p.m.

Tickets for this event are free. If you would like tickets for your family and friends, please contact Inger Lanese at 517-626-6410

### Book Study

A special thanks goes out to Ann McMillan for being a great facilitator at this summer's book study of *The Shack*.

Thanks also to Jeanne Schroeder and Jackie Johnson for the treats at the last meeting.

Looking forward to our next book.

### Vestry Meeting

The August vestry meeting will be on Wednesday, August 26, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

### 5Th Sunday Potluck

5th Sunday potluck will be held on Sunday, August 30, after the 10 a.m. service.

Bring a dish to pass, your table service and your drinks.

Trinity Members for Your Prayers

Betty Bottom  
Tom Clark  
Barb Hadfield  
Betty Jones  
Sally Schlee  
Ellen Wehl

TRINITY EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

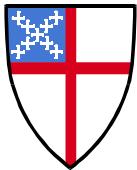
201 E Jefferson Street  
PO Box 116  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Phone: 517-627-6287  
Fax: 517-627-3337  
E-mail: [secretary@trinitypeople.org](mailto:secretary@trinitypeople.org)

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[WWW.TRINITYPEOPLE.ORG](http://WWW.TRINITYPEOPLE.ORG)

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TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Our Mission Statement**

Trinity Episcopal Church is an inclusive environment, open to everyone, actively promoting God's love in our community and the world through liturgical worship

**Interim Priest**

The Rev. J. Nixon McMillan 248.978.5537  
cell  
517.706.0150 home  
email [fr.mcmillan@trinitypeople.org](mailto:fr.mcmillan@trinitypeople.org)

**Service Schedule**

Sunday: Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m..

**Vestry email: [vestry@trinitypeople.org](mailto:vestry@trinitypeople.org)**

Member	Sallee Anderson	(1/2012)	627.4864
Member	Marian Stolz	(1/2011)	627.7712
Member	Paul Viles	(1/2012)	282.2354
Member	John Lanese	(1/2011)	626.6410
Member	Roger Lee	(1/2010)	627.6614
Member	Yvonne Fleener	(1/2010)	898.9420
Recording Clerk	Bev Seling		627.7052

**Treasurer**

Judy Viles 517-282.2354

**Parish Secretary & Newsletter**

Jill Knaggs 517-627-3413  
[jknaggs@cablespeed.com](mailto:jknaggs@cablespeed.com)  
[secretary@trinitypeople.org](mailto:secretary@trinitypeople.org)