



# Trinity Bell



Volume 5, Issue 5

Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

May 2007

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SR. WARDEN

On April 11, 2007 Rev. Gayanne Silver from the Diocesan office conducted a joint meeting of the Mission Board and Search Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to give the Search Committee their instructions and guidelines to be used in conducting Trinity's full-time priest search. Rev. Silver will serve as consultant to the committee. It should be pointed out to the congregation that the meetings and activities of the Search Committee are confidential. Periodic progress reports will be made to the Mission Board as necessary and information given to the congregation when appropriate. We would ask that congregation members do not ask un-necessary questions of the committee members and respect their pledge of confidentiality.

As most of you are aware our organist, Stephanie Smith, resigned her position effective April 21st. She will assume a new role as Music Director of the University Lutheran Church in Gainesville. A reception was held on Sunday, April 21st after the 11 am service thanking her for her years of service with us.

At the April 11th Mission Board meeting the board decided that we would seek a permanent part-time organist rather than try to find temporary organist. Margaret Rice and Linda Wilcox are soliciting names of prospective candidates. If any congregation members know of anyone who may be interested, please contact either Margaret or Linda. Arrangements have been made to have temporary organists until a permanent organist is hired.

Starting Sunday, May 6th we will begin holding only one service on the first Sunday of each month. This service

will be held in the Parish Hall commencing at 10 am. The purpose of the single service is to let congregation members come together for worship and mingle with one another after the service. The Mission Board's feeling was that we were, perhaps, becoming a little too structured into two separate groups attending the two Sunday services, and this will provide an opportunity for us to be together as one united congregation. Following the single service light refreshments will be available. It is hoped that congregation members will spend some time visiting with one another.

I remind you also to remember that this is a very special time of our church year, the 50 days of Easter. Our joy and celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord extends throughout the year but most especially during this 50 days.

As always, please keep your Mission Board and Trinity in your prayers with special prayers for your Search Committee as they embark on their difficult task.

Alan Pankratz, Sr. Warden

## FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH



On Sunday, May 6th, we will hold our first combined service in the Parish Hall at 10:00am. This will be our first "First Sunday" service. We hope to hold a joint Sunday service each month throughout the year, so mark you calendar and tie a string on your finger so you won't miss this special time to come together in celebration of the Holy Eucharist and our caring of one another as a church family.

**Head of the Church  
Jesus Christ**

**The Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard  
Bishop of Florida**

**Members of the Mission Board**

**Alan Pankratz, Sr. Warden  
Jim White, Jr. Warden  
George Bothwell, Treasurer  
Linda Wilcox, Clerk  
Donna Eichelsderfer  
Kristi Gregory  
Suki Hoffman  
Ed O'Bryan  
Clay O'Neal  
Vi Paul  
Jack Rice**

**Staff**

**Clergy  
Pat Nahikian, Deacon  
Valerie Thomas, Deacon**

**Music**

**Margaret Rice, Choir Director**

**Office**

**Linda Wilcox, Parish Administrator  
Jean Stegall, Financial Administrator**

**Service Times**

**8:30 am and 11:00 am Sunday  
6:00 pm Wednesday Evening**

**Trinity Episcopal Church  
204 SR 26**

**Post Office Box 361  
Melrose, Florida 32666**

**Office Hours: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Monday thru Thursday**

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**Website: trinitymelrosefl.org**

**Editor of the Bell, Linda Wilcox**



**DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

During the month of April the Daughters of the King got together to make fleece prayer blankets which were then brought up to the altar at a Sunday service and blessed by Father George. These blankets will be given to any parishioner or friend who is suffering from an illness or who needs the extra power of prayer and the loving gift of the blanket. If you or someone you know would benefit from this ministry, please call the office of one of the Daughters to request a blanket.

**INVITATION TO A "QUIET MORNING"**

You are invited to participate along with the Daughters of the King in our first "Quiet Morning" which is scheduled for Sat., May 5th from 9:00am until noon.

This "Quiet Morning" will be a time to stop the frenetic pace of our lives for a brief time and to enjoy God's perfect peace. Mother Diane Reeves from St. Andrew's Church in Interlachen will be here to lead us, by way of meditation and prayer, through the morning, allowing ample time for quiet personal reflection and meditation.

If you and/or a friend would like to join us, please dress comfortably, bring your Bible (there are also Bibles available in the church), and join us at about 8:50 in the Parish Hall for coffee prior to starting our quiet time together. Men are also welcome, as are youth. Everyone will be blessed in some way by the silence. "Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
GRADUATES!**

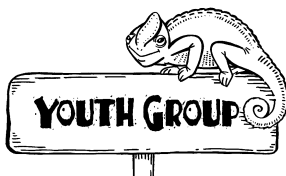
We are proud to announce that we have six members of Trinity graduating from high school this year. Please join in congratulating them at a reception held in their honor by the ECW immediately after the 11:00am service on May 20th.

Laura Cook	Rachel Fonvielle
Jackie Micciche	Jason O'Neal
Bailey Spitzner	Joshua Stegall



**CURSILLO NEWS**

The next Ultreya will be held on Friday, May 4th, at St. Luke's in Live Oak. There will be a Eucharist Service and a covered dish dinner. Everyone is invited. If you would like to know more about Cursillo, please be sure to come and join the fellowship of the evening and ask lots of questions. De Colores!



This past month has been very exciting for the youth group. Several of our members attended a Happening weekend at Camp Weed. Happening is a weekend event for high school students that is the equivalent to adult Cursillo. On the weekend of the April 20th, John-Earl and Austin attended Happening as candidates, while Bailey was on Team and Megan A. and Layne both worked the reunion team. Two weeks earlier Richard attended Dynamos, the Anglican version of Happening.

The youth group was happy to be able to work with the Fellowship Committee and to serve at the Italian dinner on the 27th to help raise funds for our new Priest.

The Youth Group made a full pledge to the Priest's Fund, and we are very proud to say that we have now paid our pledge in full. We will be resuming our sale of the Youth Group T-shirts at the low rate of \$20.00 to help replenish the Youth Fund. We have a few of each size left. Only 1 Small, a couple Mediums, a dozen Large and a dozen or so of the Extra Large. We are hoping to raise funds so we can plan for some future events for the youth and, hopefully to be able to attend Night of Joy again in the Fall.

We are also planning to have a booth at the Yulee Railroad Days celebration again this year.

The end of the school year will be bitter/sweet for the youth group. Bailey, Richard, Jackie, and Layne are all graduating this year. While Jackie and Layne are regularly attending members, Richard and Bailey have been spiritual leaders in the group. Richard is a recent addition to the group, joining us in December, but he has been a very positive role model to the younger members. We are very proud of all of our seniors! We congratulate them and send them off with our prayers and best wishes!

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**



- May 10 Eric and Margaret Arenberg
- May 20 Chris and Ginny Fonvielle
- May 25 Leo and Jennifer Lowe

O God, bless our relationships, assist us with your grace, so that with true fidelity and steadfast love we may honor and keep the promises and vows we make to one another. Let us love one another as a sign of your love for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**



- May 7 Clay O'Neal
- May 10 Betsy Livingston  
Jeanne Eaton
- May 15 Chuck Broward  
Kaitlyn Guthrie
- May 16 Jason O'Neal
- May 25 Bud James
- May 28 Vi Paul



**The Deadline for  
the June Bell is  
May 21st.**

God, our times are in your hand; look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Book of Common Prayer p. 830

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Income Statement for the Period Ending February 28, 2007

	<u>March</u>		<u>Year-to-Date</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$17,370	\$13,335	\$39,604	\$40,005
Expense	\$ 6,820	\$ 9,056	\$23,326	\$27,164

### Pledges

Given our wonderful opportunity to hire a full time priest, it is very important that we retain accurate records for each pledge. You should have received your first quarter pledge statements by this time. Please review them carefully. If either your Regular Pledge or your Full Time Priest Pledge has been posted to an improper category, please contact either Jean Stegall or George Bothwell with the correct pledge distribution. To help us keep your pledges categorized properly in the future, please indicate on the memo line of your check the amount you are giving for each category. Thank you.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



*Vacation Bible School* planning is underway, with a western theme this year - *Avalanche Ranch* should prove to be a lot of fun as the kids rotate stations and learn more about God! The week planned for this year is July 23-27, with a reunion party after the 11:00 service on Sunday July 29.

We're beginning to organize the volunteer staff, preview the materials from Group, Inc. and have already ordered some of the items needed. Fundraising is planned, as additional donations will be needed to support this event... about 30 kids in our community look forward to this and come each year! Please contact Clay for additional information... (352) 222-2074 days, or [clayoneal@aol.com](mailto:clayoneal@aol.com).

If you would like to volunteer but have not yet attended "**Safeguarding God's Children**" training, please take advantage of an afternoon class at **Camp Weed** on May 12th ( 1 - 4 PM) ... contact Melinda Harris (904) 285-6127 at Christ Church Ponte Vedra to reserve a spot. (This is a requirement of any adult working with kids in an Episcopal Church function, and a very enlightening program for everyone).

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



*Trinity's Children's Sunday School* developed from last year's Vacation Bible School, with about 12 kids that regularly attend. We follow the weekly lessons and explain the gospel in terms that elementary kids can understand. Crafts and songs make it interesting and short movies help tell the stories.

Easter was a Sunday morning enjoyed by these kids, and this year we're confident they learned more about the real reason for that celebration. Since the first Sunday of each month will have a combined service in the Parish Hall at 10:00, the kids can sit together and listen to the readings before going into their classroom for the age-appropriate teachings, and then return for the Peace and Communion with the rest of the Church.

## NEWS FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE



The Search Committee for our new rector received its charge from The Rev. Gayanne Silver, Canon to the Ordinary, on April 11th. The committee held its first official meeting on April 26th. During that meeting, we discussed the general process involved in a "Search". Our first steps are to gather information from you, our members, and about our community. Then we will prepare a Parish Profile. A draft of this profile will be available for all members to review for input before it is finalized. This will be a fluid process, and as of this writing, no firm dates have been set. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me or a search committee member. Ann Beshore, Chairman

## PRIEST'S FUND FUN RAISING

Donna Eichelsderfer



Along with individual pledges to the Priest's Fund, the Fellowship Committee has been charged with raising \$4,500.00 to add to that fund. We hope to be able to accomplish this in fun and pain free ways which include our working and playing together as a church community.

Over the next few months we are planning many events which include dinners, auctions, and Yulee Railroad activities. We are hoping to keep costs down so that the price of a Fun dinner will be about the same as dinner in a restaurant. With the Italian Dinner in April, we have begun to include the availability of "Take Out Dinners" for those who might not be able to attend the evenings event but would like to take a tasty dinner home with them. We hope to have "Take Out Dinners" available for each of our Fun Raising Dinners.

The planning and execution of these events requires the input and help of many individuals, and we hope you will feel inspired to help out once in a while if you are called on or feel free to just come and pitch in. Despite the work involved, even setting up or cleaning up, we always have an enjoyable time together. Newcomers to the Fellowship Committee are always welcome, as are ideas for future activities.



During the month of April the ECW was still actively working on the Thrift Shop renovations. The new look and feel of the shop is wonderful and reflects the many hours which have been dedicated to updating and remodeling the shop.

The ECW also hosted a reception for our retiring organist Stephanie Smith and although we will miss her, we wish her well in her new endeavors. We will also host a reception for our high school graduates on Sunday, May 20 immediately following the 11:00am Service.

Our ECW will be taking a fun day trip to Dudley Farm State Park on Wednesday, May 2nd. We will meet at Trinity at 8:45 to 9:00am and will carpool to the Farm. Water and other drinks will be provided and everyone should bring a "lunchbag" with them. We will be conducting a self-guided tour via the Dudley brochure and picnic together. All women of the church are invited.



## SCOUTING NEWS



**Cub Scout Pack 109** will be racing on Saturday, June 2... the first annual **Cubmobile Derby** starts at 10:00 AM and will feature homebuilt cars that the youth race down Trout Street towards the lake! Other Packs from Crescent City, Palatka, Interlachen, Keystone Heights, and Starke are expected to build cars and join the fun, so this event should prove to be an exciting kickoff to the annual **Yulee Railroad Festival** which is hosted by **Historic Melrose Inc** and usually brings over 1000 visitors to our town!

**Boy Scout Troop 109** is getting ready for summer camp... some of our boys plan to attend Camp Shands, others may opt for a Troop Trip later in the summer. Morgan has a busy summer ahead - a week at Camp Shands followed by a week at Camp Weed!

**Venture Crew 109** will be serving the French Dinner on May 4, which is a production of the **Lake Area Singers** featuring entertainment and a gourmet dinner. LAS always return their proceeds to local organizations, and our new Venture Crew is grateful for the opportunity to gain their support.

The crew is also making plans for a Scuba course, led by an experienced diver who has trained youth for many years. If you've been thinking of joining, this would be a good time to get started! (open to young men and women, ages 14-20)

**Minutes Of the Mission Board  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
March 14, 2007**

**Present:**

Sr. Warden, Alan Pankratz                      Deacon Valerie Thomas              Kristi Gregory  
 Jr. Warden, Jim White                      Vi Paul                                      Donna Eichelsderfer  
 Treasurer George Bothwell                      Jack Rice  
 Clerk, Linda Wilcox                      Ed O'Bryan  
 Guest, The Venerable Gayanne Silver  
 Absent: Clay O'Neal, Suki Hoffman

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 and opened with a prayer by Deacon, Valerie Thomas.

The minutes were reviewed. It was moved by Jack Rice and seconded by Ed O'Bryan that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

George Bothwell distributed copies of the financial report which was sent to the Diocese.

The budget has been amended slightly because we operated through February on last year's budget. The March report has the new numbers.

Income is currently \$2,350 better than budget.

Expenses are currently \$1,724 less than budget.

Therefore we have a \$5,728 surplus year to date.

Our investments are also showing growth.

It was moved by Vi Paul, and seconded by Jack that the Operating Statement and Income and Expense statement through Jan.31, 2007 be approved. Motion Carried.

We need to emphasize again to the members of the congregation that they should start contributing to their pledge to the Priest's Fund.

Sr. Warden, Alan Pankratz introduced The Venerable Gayanne Silver from the Diocesan office who reported to us that the Diocese has reviewed our financial report and our Proposal for a Full Time Priest and have approved and support our plans. Rev. Silver noted that she will be our advising consultant for the search process. Members of the Board applauded that good news. We will set up a joint meeting with the Mission Board and the Search Committee for Wed., April 11<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Silver will celebrate Holy Eucharist for us prior to the meeting. At the meeting Rev. Silver will explain the entire process to everyone. During the process we should take our time to do a good job and in the meantime keep doing our usual business, tweaking and refining it as we go.

The process should take about a year, possibly ten months if everything seemed to be a perfect match. Ann Beshore will chair the Search Committee with John Wick as the vice-chair.

**Jr. Warden's Report – Jim White**

Jim noted that they have been working on replacing the wood on the handicap ramp into the church. He, Richard Geraci and a community service helper have been doing the work.

On Sat., March 24<sup>th</sup> we will have a yard clean-up day and Rodney Paul has once again arranged for some of the young men from the Florida Youth Challenge to come and help.

Alan adjourned the meeting and closed with a prayer at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Wilcox, Clerk

## PONDERINGS

By Suki Hoffman

From Daily word; "The Christ within is my light, my strength, and my support". I want to step fully into this light. The little lighthouse the Sunday School kids handed out a while back hangs on the visor in my car as a reminder of this. With such faith-based thinking, I should be able to build a consciousness of Christ that would lead me, heal me, protect me etc, in every fiber of my body.

There should be a resurgence of strength, understanding and health that I can claim - in body, soul and spirit. I start each day, as I've said before, with "This is the day that the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it." Each morning I have the freedom to choose how I want to greet the day. I can choose to let God, the creator, be active in my life every day.

When I fill my cup with coffee in the morning, instead of using cream and sugar, I can sweeten it with the love of God's unconditional love. I will try to do this every morning and I know I shall lead a much happier, more fulfilling and more healthy life. I also know, I need to share this love with all those I come in contact with. Thank you, Lord, for your love and patience.



## DEACON'S BENCH

Easter is my favorite of all the season's in the church calendar. Having spent the last 40 days in self-examination and a very contemplative time of prayer, the freshness, flowers and excitement of Easter brings my heart to life again. My soul rejoices in the name of the Lord.

Throughout the Easter season, our readings are full of Jesus's message to us to prepare us for Pentecost, the infilling of the Holy Spirit, the actual birthday of the Church. Of course the Easter II reading is one of my personal favorites, because it gives me hope when I, too, fail our Lord and show my imperfect side. When Thomas was so left out and cried to see our Lord so that he, too, could believe, Jesus did not scold him or reprimand him in any way. Instead, He said, "Thomas, come, touch me, feel me" and let me give you peace." In fact, in this passage, He says three times "peace be with you".

Isn't that what we all want in our Christian lives? Jesus already has given us the greatest commandment, "Love one another as I have loved you". That takes some action and energy on our part. But, the peace of Jesus is the key to our busy lives. Peace as we reflect on He who saved us. Peace as we pray for reconciliation. Peace as we work out our mission in the church. Peace as we wait on our search committee to do its work and peace for our mission board in the next many months to come. So when our humanness fails us, let us remember Jesus's message to Thomas and to us, "Peace be with you".

Your servant in Christ, The Rev. Valerie Thomas

## GIGGLESOME

### You know you're an Episcopalian when.....

- \* You think that attending church is a form of aerobic exercise.
- \* You believe in prayer but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.
- \* You love to sing except when confronted with a new hymn or one with more than three stanzas.
- \* You believe in miracles and even expect miracles during stewardship time.
- \* You drink coffee as if it were the third sacrament and even when it's 100 degrees with 90% humidity you still have coffee after the service.
- \* You feel guilty for not staying to clean up after your own wedding reception.
- \* You want to attend every church dinner and are willing to contribute up to one dollar for it.
- \* You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.
- \* Cookies for Sunday are a line item in the budget just like coffee.
- \* It takes ten minutes and a hug to say goodbye.

**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
**204 SR 26**  
**Post Office Box 361**  
**Melrose, Florida 32666**



LABEL

### **SPECIAL EVENTS IN MAY**

- May 2 ECW trip to Dudley Farm  
May 4 Ultreya at St. Luke's in Live Oak  
May 5 Daughters of the King Quiet Day  
May 5 LAS French Musical  
**May 6 First Sunday of the Month**  
**One Service at 10:00am**  
May 12 Historic Melrose Auction at Trinity  
May 13 Mother's Day  
May 20 Jesus in the Park  
Reception to honor graduates.  
May 27 **Pentecost**  
May 28 Memorial Day—Office Closed

### **PLANNING AHEAD**

- June 1-2 Yulee Railroad Days  
June 3 **Trinity Sunday**  
Parish Picnic

### **REGULAR EVENTS**

**Sunday : 8:30 & 11:00 am Holy Eucharist**  
9:15 am Coffee  
9:45 - 10:45am Children's Sunday School  
Adult Spiritual Development

#### **Youth Group**

After 11:00 Service on Sunday  
Wed. Evening Bible Study at Betty's Pizza

#### **1st Sunday of the Month**

One Service only at 10:00am  
In the Parish Hall

#### **3rd Sunday of the Month**

8:30 Service, "Jesus in the Park"  
In the Park

**Wednesday: Evening Service 6:00 pm**

#### **Thrift Shop**

Open 10 am to 4 pm Thursday  
9 am—noon Saturday