



# Trinity Bell



Volume 5, Issue 8

Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

August 2007

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SR. Warden

Summertime, is definitely here with all the heat, misquotes and rain. But it also brings time for people to go to the mountains, or the beach, or to go off to visit relatives.

Penny and I have had a couple of opportunities to go and visit some of our kids which has been great. Many of you know that we have a brand new baby grandson and that's wonderful. But, he and his Mom had a difficult time in the hospital, he was born prematurely. It was pretty scary for a while.

During the time of the most danger, when we wanted to do the most, there was really nothing that we could do but to pray. We had to let go of our own feeling that we needed to "do" something and "Let Go and Let God", a phrase we've often heard, but, we don't always pay attention to it. We found comfort in being able to call on the Trinity Prayer Chain and in knowing that the entire family would have many people praying for their safety and peace.

Trusting God allowed us to be calm in the face of the storm, knowing that, although we couldn't, He could handle things, and He would. I'm happy to tell you that both Mother and grandson are doing very well now and we know that we have God to thank for that.

Often in our lives when we are faced with a crisis, or a difficult situation, we think we have to hurry to be in control.

It also made me think of Trinity and how well we have held together in the face of having different priests

from week to week, changes in our music program without an organist, having one deacon on sabbatical, all the things going on in the church and the world around us, and trying to raise the money for a full time priest. Our search committee has been working with much diligence, the Fellowship Committee has been doing a wonderful job providing us with opportunities to come together and have fun, our recent Vacation Bible School was a great success, the Thrift Shop continues to do well, and Trinity seems to be happy and healthy under God's care.

Our prayer chain, our Daughters of the King and, I know, many of us individually, are committed to praying for Trinity every. I believe it is the faithfulness of our members, our ability to "Let Go, to Trust in Him, and to Let God", is where our strength as a church comes from. So keep praying, keep trusting and when the going gets a little rough, or things seem to be going a little too slow, "Let God".

Alan Pankratz, Sr. Warden



## FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

On Sunday, August 5th, we will hold a combined service in the Parish Hall at 10:00 am. The women of the Daughters of the King will provide a light lunch after the service.

Please be sure to mark your calendar so you won't miss this important event and a 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**

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

**Office Phone: 352 475-2177  
Fax: 352 475-6181**

**Email: trinitymelrose@alltel.net  
Website: trinitymelrosefl.org**



The Daughters of the King will hold a meeting on Sunday, August 5th at 11:30am following the First Sunday Service and lunch. The members of the Daughters from St. Anne's in Starke have also been invited to attend the meeting.

The women in the Daughters of Trinity will be providing the light lunch immediately following the 10:00am Service in the Parish Hall.



**NEW BOOK STUDY STARTING  
"The Great Divorce" by C.S. Lewis**

On Sunday, August 12th we will start a new book study. The book this time will be, "The Great Divorce" by C.S. Lewis. The book actually has nothing to do with divorce itself. Following is a sentence from the book description at Amazon Books: "C. S. Lewis takes us on a profound journey through both heaven and hell in this engaging allegorical tale. Using his extraordinary descriptive powers, Lewis introduces us to supernatural beings who will change the way we think about good and evil."

We have chosen this book because during the month of October, Mr. Corbin Corbett, from Holy Trinity in Gainesville will join us for a discussion of C.S. Lewis himself. Mr. Corbett was well acquainted with Mr. Lewis and has some interesting insights into the man and his literature.

If you would like to participate in the study group, please let the office know and we will order a book for you.

**GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME DINNER AND AUCTION**

Thank you to everyone who participated, worked, prepared, set up and cleaned up for the Good Old Summertime Dinner and Auction. Thanks to your enthusiastic support, the dinner and auction were great successes and we were able to raise \$1300.00! Quite a feat! One of the added blessings was that we saw many friends and neighbors of Trinity at the dinner and hope everyone will continue to encourage others to come and join our fun!



**CURSILLO NEWS**

The next Ultreya will be held on Friday, Aug. 3, at Holy Trinity in Gainesville. 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!



### NEWS FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee would like to thank all the church family for the wonderful job you did in completing our parish survey. Your cooperation and enthusiasm was a blessing. Now the committee is hard at work collating all the information we have gathered. We plan to spend the month of August preparing our Parish Profile which will then be sent to the bishop. Please remember to keep the Search Committee and the new priest who awaits us in your daily prayers



On Sunday, July 29th many of us were able to experience the wonderful singing of the Vacation Bible School kids at the 11:30am Service. Their enthusiasm showed and reflected the great time everyone had during the week.

Avalanche Ranch was a "Wild Ride through God's Word". We were blessed to have 17 full time members of the "Ranch", and on the last night we had eight more kids come to join in the fun. Their Songs of Praise had a definitely western flavor, as did "Chuck Wagon Chow", the Cowpoke Crafts, Horseplay Games and Wild Bible Adventures. Chadder's Theatre gave us comedy relief along with inspirational messages each night.

We are grateful to have had 21 adults and 9 youth help to lead and teach the kids. And, during their craft time, not only did the kids have fun making things for themselves, they also took time to make, "Prayer Bears" for the children of inmates who will be attending summer camp at Camp Weed this summer.

Many to everyone who worked so hard to help this week and our thanks to all of you who showed your support through your thoughts and prayers and actions.

Clay and the VBS Ranch Crew

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Aug. 1 Phil and Ann Payne
- Aug. 13 Alan and Penny Pankratz
- Aug. 28 Mark and Debbie Brown
- Aug. 30 Terry and Jean Marshall



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:

- Aug. 2 Sarah Garcia
- Aug. 8 Allan Wainwright
- Aug. 9 Luke Duncan
- Aug. 11 Joshua Stegall
- Aug. 12 Kathi Nash
- Aug. 14 Dan Wilcox
- Aug. 15 Ellie Chaires
- Aug. 16 Bonnie Brown
- Aug. 18 Morgan Garcia
- Jacob Lowe
- Aug. 25 Ann Beshore
- Paige Davis
- Aug. 30 Ginny Fonvielle



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



**The Deadline for the September Bell is August 20th.**



## Treasurer's Report



### Income Statement for the Period Ended June 30, 2007

	For the Month		Year-to-Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>	\$ 11,236	\$ 13,335	\$ 79,347	\$ 80,011
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 8,135	\$ 9,055	\$ 48,924	\$ 54,328
<b>Income less Expense</b>	\$ 3,101	\$ 4,280	\$ 30,423	\$ 25,683

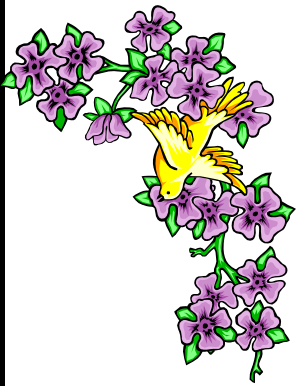
### Gigglesome

Two doctors and an HMO manager died on the same day and they all lined up at the pearly gates for admission to heaven. St. Peter asked them to identify themselves. One doctor stepped forward and said, "I was a pediatric spine surgeon and helped kids overcome their deformities." St. Peter said, "You can enter." The second doctor said, "I was a psychiatrist. I helped people rehabilitate themselves." St. Peter also invited him in. The third applicant stepped forward and said, "I was an HMO manager. I helped people get cost-effective health care." St. Peter said, "You can come in, too." But as the HMO manager walked by, St. Peter added, "Of course you know, you can only stay for three days!"

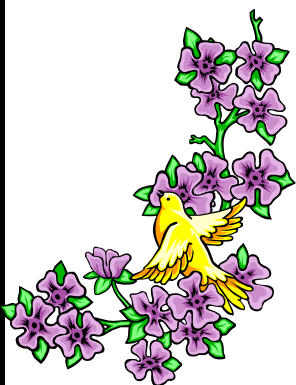
### FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH....

Hot, hot, hot.....that's about all I have to say.... (but not really). I retired from my secular job in medical transcription at the end of May after 40 plus years. Actually, I started working in the medical field when I was sixteen years old. Needless to say, I was beginning to burn out. I had some idealistic notion that when I retired I would all of a sudden have lots of time to do all those things I had put off for many years. That was not even idealistic, but perhaps more like idiotic. I find myself busier and busier every day and not accomplishing anything on my list of important jobs I had planned. I keep thinking and reminding myself that this is "ordinary time" and season of growing and a time to do all those things we put off during the "busy time" of the church year. I wonder if it is the same for you? Reflecting on that I began to ponder on the church and all that we do and all that we are planning on doing. I do believe that we are accomplishing quite a bit and doing it without a priest at the moment. In spite, however, of trying to do our best, we forget (at least I do), we overlook (I do) and we procrastinate. And all these things we do, not as a church, but because we are human beings with human faults. The prayer book describes the structure of the church with its importance as first of all the head of the church as Jesus Christ, then the laity, and then the clergy. We at Trinity are living examples of that structure at the moment. Jesus Christ with the laity of this church is keeping it alive and moving forward, albeit sometimes not as fast as we would like but in Kairos (God's Special) time. I pray that I am part of that forward movement as well. If I can assist you better, please let me know. I will always make the time and take the for you. The church (all of us) has one very important job and that is to love each other as Jesus loved us and that is 100% in spite of any peccadilloes each of us might have. Loving each other means just that loving and accepting (not trying to change) someone with all their peccadilloes. I promise to love you with yours if you will love me with mine.

Your servant to Jesus Christ,



# August 2007



Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

Our Fellowship Committee will meet on Sunday, August 12th between services. New members and new ideas are always welcome. If you would like to join the committee or just see what exciting plans are being made, come and join us in the office immediately following the 8:30 am service. (You can bring your coffee!)

	1 7:00 pm Mission Board	2 10 - 4 Thrift Shop open 7:00 pm AA ~ Wicker	3 Ultreya at St. Mark's Starke	4 Thrift Shop 9am-12	
5 First Sunday Service 10:00am Parish Hall Light Lunch Following DOK 11:30 am	6 7:00 pm Scouts	7	8 7:00 pm Mission Board	9 10 - 4 Thrift Shop open 7:00 pm AA ~ Wicker	10 11 Thrift Shop 9am-12 PH in Use
12 8:30 & 11:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Met. 9:45 Spiritual Dev	13 7:00 pm Scouts	14	15	16 10 - 4 Thrift Shop open 7:00 pm AA ~ Wicker	17 18 Thrift Shop 9am-12
19 8:30 Jesus in the Park 11:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Coffee 9:45 Spiritual Dev	20 7:00 pm Scouts	21	22	23 10 - 4 Thrift Shop open 7:00 pm AA ~ Wicker	24 25 Thrift Shop 9am-12
26 8:30 & 11:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 Coffee 9:45 Spiritual Dev	27 7:00 pm Scouts	28	29	30 10 - 4 Thrift Shop open 7:00 pm AA ~ Wicker	31

**PONDERING**  
**Suki Hoffman**

As you can see, I'm home from Dominican Republic and healthy. Thank you for your prayers. Being with the MMI people I've learned that you balance life with God at the center, and rest in His peace. We worked hard, did a lot of healing.



We started each day with "This is the Day" or "Jesus loves me". Then we had prayer and invocation after breakfast. By the way, the food was plentiful and good. We also thanked God for the gift of that day. When we all had a common goal, we could work in harmony with each other and exchange the love we had for the patients and each other. It was a marvelous work experience.

There were more young people that I've been with before on these missions, and they were interpreters, helpers (guides for the people), and even scrubbed for surgery and learned how to suture, experience a sterile environment, help where ever needed. Some were medical students, some applying to medical school, some residents, some just high school students. All were a gift from God, and VERY helpful.

I was even able to scrub for a Dominican doctor who spoke no English. It was an emergency and I'd done the procedure before so could anticipate his need. This surprised him (with no verbal communication) and he asked, through an interpreter, if I would be willing to stay and be his nurse. God released me of any obligation I should feel and helped me say "No". One important thing we all experienced was knowing the ever-present presence, support and comfort of God's love and peace. Thank you, Lord, for this feeling.

**A Midsummer letter to the people and clergy of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida from their  
Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard**



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

July 27, 2007

Greetings at midsummer! I hope you are finding time this summer for holidays and family gatherings, for catching up with old friends and for taking at least one good, long break from the frantic pace of "school year" life. One of the things I enjoy most in the summertime is heading to the beach with a good book...usually a mystery novel of some sort. There's nothing better sometimes than simply escaping into the narrative of a great mystery story and, with the waves lapping in the background, and a cool iced tea by your side, escaping the thoughts, worries and cares of the world around you.

But when you find yourself drawn into a great mystery novel, have you ever stepped back and asked yourself just why you're so entertained? Why you're so enthralled? I think there is a deep and fundamental dynamic at play. The human attraction to mystery and the inner human need for escape, are both powerful. And while these qualities are effectively exploited by the best writers, they were not invented by Clive James or even Arthur Conan Doyle. I think both capacities -- a love of mystery, of the unsolved, of the hidden and the desire to escape -- to escape our problems, our cares, our difficulties -- are deeply ingrained and intractable facets of the human soul. They are part of the fabric unique to humanity.

I recently began to re-read a great and massively important book which sheds great light on these concepts, and which spurred me to think of them in new ways. St. Augustine's *The City of God* was written in the early 5<sup>th</sup> century AD in the immediate aftermath of the first sacking of Imperial Rome by barbarian Goths. It seeks to explain just how God could allow the greatest city on earth -- Rome -- to be destroyed. It also seeks to tell the story of a different city, a City of God, which stands above and beyond all that can be contained or seen, much less come to ruin, in the world which you and I inhabit.

*The City of God*, as you might suspect, is not typical beach reading. Yet, more than any novel you or I will read this summer, St. Augustine gets to the crux of the matter: Life is *mysterious*, but, St. Augustine suggests, the

mystery does not lie where most of us look for it. It is common and understandable that people ask, “Why does God allow good people to suffer?” or “Why would a loving God allow terror and destruction to occur at all?” But Augustine turns these age-old questions on their heads. The greater mystery is not, Augustine contends, why war, destruction or pestilence would enter into a fallen world, but why, despite the sin each of us carries, a loving and merciful God would still provide *grace* and *mercy* in the context of that brokenness. For even as the barbarians sacked Rome, they showed mercy to the Christian Romans taking refuge in Christian temples. This sort of mercy, Augustine notes, was unprecedented in recorded warfare. This was the truly *novel* thing, the new and exciting thing. This was the unusual, the mysterious thing. This was God at work, even in the midst of the worst that humankind could inflict upon itself.

The renowned thinker, priest and monk Thomas Merton wrote a marvelous introduction to my volume of *The City of God*. He writes of the Christian worldview as St. Augustine saw it: “It is more than a belief,” Merton writes, it is a *life*. That is to say, it is a belief that is lived and expressed in action. The action in which it is expressed, experienced and lived is called a mystery. The mystery is the sacred drama which keeps ever present in history the Sacrifice that was consummated by Christ on Calvary. In plain words—if you can accept them as plain—Christianity is the life and death and resurrection of Christ going on day after day in the souls of individual men and in the heart of society.

The great sacrifice of Jesus Christ is a mystery—it is, on some level, forever beyond our imagining, beyond our comprehension. Sometimes the impact of God’s love is not immediate...but this is because we have not escaped the bounds of our typical thinking, our temporal loves and desires, our old questions—particularly our old complaints against God himself. We have not, in other words, transcended the “earthly city” of which St. Augustine writes. This is the city “ruled,” in Augustine’s words, “by its lust of rule.” The city of earth knows as its terms only power and control. When we lose power, or have no control, when we see our lives “sacked” by the invasion of any multitude of problems, we seek escape. And we *should* do so. But we often seek to escape the wrong way. We seek to heal ourselves. We seek to regain control, to exert power over ourselves or others. But God calls us instead to escape to the foot of the cross, to leave the city of earthen wares behind and to approach the City of God, a place of freely-given mercy, of unalterable love. This process, this approach to God—enacted as it is so imperfectly day after day across the world in the hearts of Jesus’ followers—this *is* Christianity. This is the great mystery. This is the great escape—not a turn merely away from our problems, but a turn *towards* our Savior.

The great news, the truly great news for you and for me today, is that *the City of God is not some far, distant place to which we must travel*. No, perhaps the greatest mystery of our escape is this: The City of God is here, now, however blind we may sometimes be to it. Our diocese’s cathedral, St. John’s Cathedral here in Jacksonville describes itself in a way which I think captures Merton’s notion of Christianity lived out in the “heart of society.” Our Cathedral calls itself “A Church in the heart of the city, with the city at its heart.” That city, of course, is Jacksonville, Florida and it is the city, town or community in which you live. But it is also the City of God. It is that City to which you and I aspire. We are fragile, earthly creatures living in earthly communities with earthly problems; but we are also magnificent embodiments of God’s creative will. We live on earth, but we do not have to die to know the majesty of God’s kingdom. As a matter of fact, as we seek to love our neighbors as ourselves, as we give of ourselves, as we work in the earthly communities in which we have each been placed, we actually transcend earthly boundaries...we actually, miraculously, catch glimpses, perhaps in the darkest slum or the most crime-infested alley, perhaps in the poorest rural area or in the midst of the dispossessed and despised, of the City of God! We catch these glimpses not as we seek to buttress ourselves, or to feel better about ourselves or to “escape” a sense of guilt we may harbor because of our own privileges. These visions of God’s City are instead products of God’s will working through us; they are manifest products of His abiding mercy and love.

In the City of God, you cannot earn your own way. You cannot make enough money, go to enough good schools or work hard enough to achieve success. We are called to good works, yet even those, on their own, will not suffice. No, it is by God’s grace alone that we take our seats as citizens of His shining city; it is by His great love alone that we escape the bonds of our brokenness to enter into perfect communion with Him.

I, for one, cannot think of a greater mystery, or a more wondrous story, than this: That while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

With warmest blessings,



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



### **SPECIAL EVENTS IN AUGUST**

- August 3 Ultreya at St. Mark's in Starke**
- August 5 First Sunday Service  
DOK Meeting**
- August 8 Mission Board Meeting**
- August 12 Fellowship Meeting**



### **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