

# Trinity Topics

*The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church in Toledo, Ohio*

MAY 2008 VOLUME 134, NUMBER 5



Girls at Hogar de Niños Emanuel orphanage in Honduras. Read more on page 3.

## Looking outside our walls



## Take your faith outside!

Join us at 10:45 at Pearson Metropark  
Sunday, May 18  
Eucharist, tree-planting, picnic  
Everyone welcome

### Trinity Episcopal Church

419-243-1231    trinitytoledo.org

PROGRESSIVE ▪ INCLUSIVE ▪ CREATIVE

#### **SUNDAY, MAY 4 ▪ EASTER 7A**

Acts 1:6-14; 1 Pet 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11  
9:00a Eucharist w/hymns  
10:00a Formation  
10:45a Parish Eucharist

#### **SUNDAY, MAY 11 ▪ PENTECOST**

Acts 2:1-21; 1 Cor 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23  
WEAR RED TODAY!  
9:00a Eucharist w/hymns  
10:00a Formation  
10:45a Parish Eucharist

#### **SUNDAY, MAY 18 ▪ TRINITY SUNDAY**

Gen 1:1-2:4a; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Matt 28:16-20  
10:45 SERVICE AT PEARSON METROPARK  
9:00a Eucharist w/hymns  
10:45a Parish Eucharist at Pearson  
Metropark  
12:00p Tree planting at Pearson  
1:00p Parish picnic at Pearson

#### **SUNDAY, MAY 25 ▪ PROPER 3A**

Isa 49:8-16a; 1 Cor 4:1-5; Matt 6:24-34  
MORNING PRAYER  
9:00a Morning Prayer  
10:00a Formation  
10:45a Morning Prayer

#### **SUNDAY, JUN 1 ▪ PROPER 4A**

Gen 6: 9-22; 7:24; 8:14-19; Rom 1: 16-17; 3:22b-28;  
Matt 7: 21-29  
9:00a Eucharist w/hymns  
10:00a Formation  
10:45a Parish Eucharist

#### **SUNDAY, JUN 8 ▪ PROPER 5A**

Gen 12:1-9; Rom 4:13-25; Matt 9:9-13, 18-26  
9:00a Eucharist w/hymns  
10:00a Formation  
10:45a Parish Eucharist

## Looking up, looking out, looking beyond



Sometimes we best experience Church when we are farthest away from the building. We look up when we are far away from home--see Jeff's column this month--or we look out around us at God's creation in each other and in some great kids and selfless educators many miles away. Toward the end of our 72-hour trip to Honduras, I was riding from the Hogar de Niños Emanuel—the Home of God with Us--into town in the back of a pickup truck. It's not my normal seat preference, but orphanage staff had three children in the front of the truck, and they were dropping us off before taking the children to see the doctor in town. After three visits to the orphanage, something about being the one in the back of the truck, instead of the one driving the truck, gave me greater sense of why we had made this trip. We did not make the trip to change them, to be in charge or to be the ones driving. We had gone to serve, to learn, to be vulnerable, and to have our perspective forever changed.

Reaching out beyond our borders comes with risks, and it comes with questions. Some people are sure to ask, Why help outside of our country? Why give there when there are so many needs HERE? I can respond with many logical, left-brained answers:

- The folks at the orphanage are very good stewards of what they are given. Director Vivian Chehin, who is not only a volunteer but also a financial supporter, makes sure that the Home's finances are very transparent. If you give paint, she can show you the wall where it has been used. If you give for an educator's position, she will introduce you to the person you have funded, and to the children who are under that person's care.
- ANY child at the orphanage who applies him or herself in secondary school gets a completely FREE college education—as well as continuing room and board at the orphanage. In Honduras, this often means the difference between having a good job and being a member of a gang.
- Hogar de Niños Emanuel's goal is to keep families together. In some instances, there are four or five siblings living there. They hope to build and staff a nursery for children under two so they may always meet that goal.
- The orphanage supports itself through some remarkable sustainable agriculture: children help with a large garden, and most of the trees on the property produce fruit. The excess is sold at market, and through this and other programs, the older children learn the basics of running a small business.
- The dollar goes much farther there than in the US. For about \$2,000 US, an educator's position can be funded for one year, and for every educator, four more children can live at Hogar de Niños Emanuel.
- The work of Hogar de Niños Emanuel supports five—yes, five-- of the millennium development goals.

Those are but a few answers that have to do with them. But there are some very compelling reasons that have to do with us. We here at Trinity are good citizens of Toledo. It is time to expand our role as good citizens of the world, and to do that often means getting out of our comfort zones.

There were some simple moments during that trip that were life-changing. One child, whom I will call Ernie, took to all of us, and was mesmerized by Chuck Kiskaddon's beard. We had no common verbal language with him, but had the language of care and play. We found out that less than a year before, he had come from a horrifying situation. Seeing how God had broken through his life to give him real joy and hope broke us open. We may go outside our borders to work and serve, but it is inevitable that we will be blessed though change as well.

*continued on p. 4, col. 2*

## Looking Up

*What in God's name is on Jeff Albright's mind? God, stars and finding our way.*

It was our first night in Key West—after a harrowing day of travel, fraught with freezing rain, faulty windshield wipers and high anxiety. After a long, cold Ohio winter. We were standing by the pool; Scott looked up and asked me, “How long has it been since you’ve seen so many stars?” I looked up at a beautiful, star-filled night sky and said, “It’s been so long since I’ve looked up.”

An Epiphany. What I meant as a matter-of-fact statement was something much more. Scott recognized it as well, “How nice to hear you say that,” he said as he squeezed my hand. We star gazed for a few more moments and then went about enjoying our first night of vacation.

“It’s been so long since I’ve looked up.” It stayed with me and I woke up the next morning still turning that statement around in my mind.

For years I’ve looked back, I’ve looked down and I’ve even looked forward. But up—not often and not recently. And how foolish of me—up, that’s where the answers are. Not God proclamations. Not a loud, authoritative voice telling me what to do. “Jeff the answer to your problem is this...” That’s not what God is about. He is not some grand puppet master pulling the strings, making me do this and that.

But God is up there—that night I looked up it became abundantly clear. He is up there calling out to us to look up and ask, “God what is your will for me?” Don’t expect the answer to fall from the sky. That’s where discernment comes in. Look up, ask, wait and listen. Ask, listen and pray as an individual—as a community.

“God what is your will?” It may take some time for the answer to be clear. Don’t rush. Listen, wait, pray. Discernment is not an easy process. It’s also not always comfortable either. We are so used to quick fixes and instant gratification—we have to relearn the spiritual practice of discernment. Don’t be surprised if the answer to your question is not what you expected. God can surprise us.

“God what is your will for me?” Look up, ask, listen, pray, wait.

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We have some discerning to do to determine how our strengths and their needs may best match. Some may give, some may travel.

Others may make good on the promise to self of “Gee, I always wanted to learn Spanish,” then go on a work trip to help educate children or set up a project that will help them be even better stewards.

One look at Christ on the cross should remind us that Christianity is not about safety, control, and protection. Our faith is ultimately about love and service and holy vulnerability.

It is when we are in the positions of safety, power and control that we may insulate ourselves from the work of God in our lives rather than be a part of it. Church happens—Grace happens—most often when we are the ones NOT in control, when we get in the back of the truck instead of insisting that we ought to drive.

To learn more, go to [www.hogaremanuel.com](http://www.hogaremanuel.com)



*Children at Hogar de Niños Emanuel*



**MEMBER MATTERS**

**2008 Graduates  
to be recognized on  
Pentecost Sunday:**

**Jason Rahe:** University of Toledo  
**Susan Lowrey:** Graduate Theological Foundation, Doctor of Ministry  
**Chris Windnagle:** University of Toledo  
**Megan Simmons:** University of Toledo, BS in Nursing  
**Spencer Rife:** Anthony Wayne High School  
**Christina (Bea) Elliot (Su Elliot):** University of Kentucky, BA in Integrated Strategic Communications  
**Chuck Kiskaddon and Courtney Altenburg** will also be recognized for their 5 year anniversary with the Canterbury Choir.

**Bud Gartz** returned home on April 30 following back surgery and physical therapy. Bud and Mary would like to thank everyone for their flowers, many, many cards and the uplifting prayers during his recent hospitalization.

**Ann Stranahan** wrote the script and was Associate Producer for a documentary about The Toledo Symphony which aired on WGTE on Thursday, April 24.

**Marie Harkey** is going to Episcopal Divinity school in Cambridge, MA in September.

**David S. Nelson** has been named a postulant for Holy Order by Bishop Hollingsworth.

A huge THANK YOU! goes to **Joni Zechman** for making our new Pentecost vestments! Don't miss their debut on Sunday, May 11!

**Derick John Oyler, Jr** (grandson of Jane and Reuben Bueche, son of **Beth & Derbick Oyler**) was born on April 29.

**Jill Snyder** is recovering at home from a heart attack that she suffered on April 22.

**Ohio Bishops support non-discrimination legislation**

*In May 2007, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland issued an order prohibiting discrimination of state workers on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill proposed in the Ohio General Assembly would expand this to protect employees at privately owned businesses. On March 12, 2008 bi-partisan legislation was introduced in the Ohio Legislature that would protect workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The bill is sponsored by Ohio Rep. John Peterson (R-Delaware), Rep. Dan Stewart (D-Columbus) and Senator Dale Miller (D-Cleveland). On April 21, Bishop Hollingsworth published this letter of support.*

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Today Bishop Breidenthal of Southern Ohio and I, along with our colleagues, Bishops Price, Bowman, Persell, and Williams, have submitted a letter of encouragement to members of the Ohio State Legislature as they consider current legislation that would protect the civil rights of homosexual persons in the State of Ohio, particularly as regards equal access to housing and employment (House Bill 502 and Senate Bill 305). The text of our endorsement is as follows:

Re: Statement of Support for Civil Rights for Gay and Lesbian Persons in Ohio

Legislation currently before the Ohio State Legislature seeks to secure equal access to housing and employment opportunities for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons. The Episcopal Church has stated unequivocally that the civil rights of all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, must be upheld and protected. As the bishops of the two Episcopal dioceses in Ohio, we strongly support the enactment of laws that further this goal in our state. We pray that the demands of justice and equity will guide you as you consider this opportunity to extend a small measure of protection and dignity to our brothers and sisters in the GLBT community.

While there is a wide range of perspective and conviction in our Church and Diocese on issues related to human sexuality, there is and must be consistent advocacy for the civil rights of all people. This is well reflected in Resolutions A069 and A071 of the 65th General Convention (1976) which proclaim respectively that "homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church," and that the General Convention "expresses its conviction that homosexual persons are entitled to equal protection of the laws with all other citizens, and calls upon our society to see that such protection is provided in actuality." The pastoral concern and care of the Church includes working to protect such basic rights as equal access to housing and employment.

Gratefully,

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.  
Bishop of Ohio

## Style show to benefit Harbor House

Trinity is a supporter of Harbor House, a transitional housing facility for single, homeless women who are recovering from substance abuse and working to reclaim their lives. Harbor House would like to invite us to support their Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon to be held on Saturday, May 10. The event will be held from noon to 3 pm at the Hilton Toledo, 3100 Glendale Avenue, on the campus of U.T. Medical College. Fashions from Coldwater Creek, Ragazza and Tootsies Shoe Boutique will be shown and there will be a fabulous lunch, perfect for mothers and daughters to celebrate Mother's Day! For tickets (\$30) call Donna Perras at 419-244-6300.

## Feed Your Neighbor at The Blarney

The West Toledo Clergy Cluster is sponsoring a FYN fund raiser on Saturday May 10 at the Blarney Irish Pub, 601 Monroe St. featuring six bands starting at 7pm including Locoweed, Jim Filipiak, Blues Connoisseurs, The Kirbys, Voodoo Libido and the Flecks. \$5 donation at the door.

## FOCUS Spring Luncheon

The FOCUS Spring Luncheon is an opportunity to learn the uplifting success stories of FOCUS clients whose lives have been turned around by their participation in the FOCUS program. This annual event will be held on Wednesday, May 14 from noon to 1.00 p.m. in the Park Inn Grand Ballroom, 101 N. Summit Street. Parking is free at the SeaGate garage. The lunch also is free but FOCUS hopes that guests will feel moved to make a donation. FOCUS was established by a group of clergy people from downtown Toledo churches to help people in need who came to them for help and has been serving homeless families in the city since 1982. If you would like to join the Trinity table, please speak to an Outreach Committee member or RSVP to FOCUS at 419 244 2175.

## Cedar Hills Volunteer Day

Saturday, May 17 is Volunteer Day at Cedar Hills, the Diocesan Camp and Conference Center in Painesville – work projects include gardening, trail maintenance, playing field preparation, picnic area set-up, painting, cleaning and organizing the chapel and library. In addition several major projects are being planned – cabana bathroom renovation and wildlife observation platforms and blinds. You can go as an individual or make a Trinity group, go for the whole day (8 am to 5:15 pm) or just a few hours. Volunteers will be served lunch at 11:45 and dinner at 5:30 for those who can stay. For more information call 440-352- 6363 or check cedarhills@dohio.org.

## Tree Planting at Pearson MetroPark

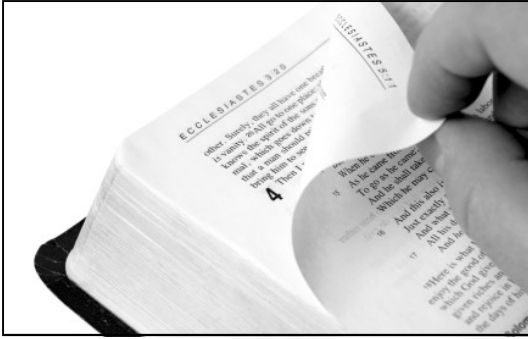
Last year we began what may well become an annual Trinity tradition of holding a Sunday service outdoors at a picnic pavilion at Pearson MetroPark followed by tree planting and a Barbecue. This year on Sunday, May 18 we will follow in that tradition – celebrating God's creation right here in Ohio. We'll have a 9 am service at Trinity and the 10:45 service will be at Pearson with tree planting and a parish picnic afterwards.

## St. Paul's Community Lunch

Each year Trinity commits to feeding those who are hungry in Toledo on two Sundays. The first of these dates is Sunday, May 25. St. Paul's Community Center provides transitional housing for around 35 residents but on Sundays the doors are opened to anyone who is hungry – usually around 165 people. We are asked to provide a nutritious meal including a hot main dish, salad, bread and butter, fruit and dessert, and milk and fruit juices as well as disposable plates and cups. This is a very moving ministry in which volunteers connect directly with those in need. We already have a commitment from one high school student to boil and peel seven dozen hard cooked eggs and are looking for volunteers to prepare and serve the meal on that day. St. Paul's opens its doors at 1.30 p.m. so the time commitment is from about 1.00 p.m. to 2.45 p.m. If you would like to help, please contact an Outreach Committee member.

*Valerie Garforth, Outreach Chair*

## Planned Giving: Our Lives are Sacred Texts



**D**o you ever take a moment, perhaps late at night, to mentally go over your day, and then think about the past, and consider the future? If your age or your health suggests that more of your life is behind you than ahead of you, do you think about how you'll be remembered by family and friends?

Imagine the story of your life as a sacred text, to be read and discussed by your grandchildren's grandchildren. Like many sacred texts, your life is made up of stories that impart messages. If those future generations read the collection of stories that is your life, searching for guidance

about how to live, what would your text teach them? What lessons would they glean from it? Would there be stories about strong, enduring love? About wrongs made right? About struggles and triumphs, or losses nobly suffered? About generosity and responsibility? Would your life's priorities be clear?

When we read sacred texts, it's easy to focus on a well-turned phrase, a memorable quote. But for stories to come alive, there has to be action. Things have to be done, not just talked about. Christ's life story was the ultimate example of actions matching words, of "walking the talk". What message will your actions communicate to future generations?

If your life is a sacred text, planned giving writes a compelling story in the final chapter. Planned giving to Trinity Church allows you to do something to protect your own financial security and that of your heirs, and yet leave behind a powerful statement about the ideals and values that have been important to you during your lifetime. There are a variety of planned giving methods offered at Trinity that you can evaluate with your legal and financial advisers. A planned gift tells a meaningful story, and gives the generations that follow a clear message about your priorities expressed in action.

### **Planned Giving Through a Gift of Securities**

When you consider making a gift to the church, keep in mind that there are wise and cost-effective ways to make that gift. Many people have assets in the form of securities that can be given to Trinity to help the parish continue to pursue God's work in downtown Toledo and make a difference for future generations.

#### ***Giving Depreciated Securities***

Many people own securities that have declined in value recently. If you are holding securities that are now worth less than you paid for them, you can dispose of them by making a gift to Trinity. In this circumstance, it can be advantageous to sell the stocks and donate the proceeds, rather than transferring the securities. The benefit of this approach - you may claim a capital loss on you income tax return for the difference between the amount you paid for the securities and the amount you sold them for, if you owned the stock for at least a year. In addition, as always, you receive a charitable tax deduction for the full amount of your gift.

#### ***Giving Appreciated Securities***

If you transfer securities to the church that have appreciated in value since their purchase, and which you have owned for at least a year, you will be eligible to take a charitable deduction for the full market value of the securities on the day that you make the gift. In addition, you are not required to pay capital gains tax on the appreciation. For example, a \$10,000 gift of stock for which you paid \$4,400 more than a year ago entitles you to a charitable deduction of \$10,000. You will also avoid paying tax on the capital gain of \$5,600 when you transfer the securities to the church. However, if you were to sell the appreciated stock in order to make the gift in cash, you would have to pay capital gains tax on the increase in its value.

If you would like to consider making a gift of securities to Trinity, we encourage you to seek the advice of your stockbroker or tax advisor. Trinity has documents that can assist you in the direct transfer of securities to the church. Contact the parish office for more information.

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL — PLEASE HANDLE PROMPTLY



# Trinity Episcopal Church

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*Serving Downtown Toledo since 1842.*

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### Parish Staff

Elizabeth Hoster, *Rector*  
Wayne F. Anthony, *Associate for Music and the Arts*  
Susan Lowrey, *Associate for Spiritual Development*  
Marie Harkey, *Associate for Digital Ministries*  
Virginia Shafer, *Executive Secretary*  
Jane A. Bueche, *Parish Accountant*  
Bridget Blanchard, *Organist*

### Parish Vestry

Becky Roth, senior warden; Jeff Albright, junior warden;  
Charles Kiskaddon, treasurer; Jason Rahe, clerk  
Lucia Cooper, Bud Gartz, Jane Gomersall-Zohn,  
Jennifer Siebold, Sherre Owens Smith, Karen Wabeke,  
Jim Zechman.

### Parish Offices

Mon thru Fri, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm  
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Email: trinity@trinitytoledo.org

### Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

2230 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2499  
800.551.4815 216.771.4815  
The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., *Bishop Ordinary*

### Next-to-New Thrift Shop

Mon & Thurs, 9:30 am – 3 pm;  
Jeanne Mitchell, *Manager*

### Building Services

Johnson's Cleaning Services, *Housekeeping*

## services

**SUNDAYS** 9 & 10:45 am, Holy Eucharist  
10 am Formation for all ages  
**(Please note:** May 25 we will have Morning Prayer)

**HOLY DAYS** as announced

## prayers

### FOR THE PARISH COMMUNITY

Justin Pershing, Barb Simmons, Cheryl Davis, Ruth Pontius, Bud Gartz, Kate Whitmore, St. John's, Charleston during their transition, those on death row, all victims of war and violence; Marie Harkey and David S. Nelson in their continuing vocational discernment.

**For those who have died:** Marshall Brown, Mary Ellen Thompson In the world: Charlton Heston (actor).

## vision & mission

**Trinity is called to be a progressive, inclusive and creative urban community.**

- We will practice radical hospitality.
- We will be engaged in the life of our city.
- We will stand with those in need: the poor, the sick, the friendless, the marginalized.
- We will actively invite all to experience and celebrate God's living presence.
- We will journey together toward a Christ-centered life, pursuing personal ministries that connect us to God, to one another, and to the world around us.