

# THE TRINITARIAN

Find us also on the Trinity web site at [www.trinitywashingtondc.org](http://www.trinitywashingtondc.org)

## Welcome to Trinity

### New Assisting Clergy

The Vestry has approved the request to call The Reverend Canon Kwasi A. Thornell to Trinity as Assisting Clergy. Canon Thornell will serve two Sundays a month.

The Reverend Thornell is a graduate of Alma College, Alma, Michigan, with a B.A. in Sociology and Theater. He has a Masters of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In February 2004, Rev. Thornell retired after 30 years from active parish ministry to pursue a second career in education. He recently completed course work in Early Childhood Education at the Montgomery County Community College. He has a commitment to providing educa-

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**JUNE 25 -- ONE SERVICE -- 9a.m.**

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## Rector's Reflection

### First Book of Common Prayer, 6 June 2006

*There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, ...  
The one who fears is not made perfect in love." I John 4:18*

Beloved:

 Late, I have been reflecting on these two words, love and fear. There is a deep awareness in each of us that lets us know that we were made to give and receive love. This sense is also championed in the words that described God's intention for us, "Let us make man in our image," *Genesis 1:26*. To be made in the image of God is an act of love that expresses that we were created in and for love.

The calling of the Christian Community is a unique calling to love. It is a calling to the giving and receiving of love. This leaves no room for fear. For fear has a way of stealing our joy, and robbing us of the desire to love. Fear can be a first response to hate. Our fear of others, often a stranger in our midst, is expressed in our rejection of them, which is also our hatred of them. Our current national debate over immigration is an example of our national fear of our neighbors. But the gospel calls us to love our neighbor, and not to fear or hate them. It is hard to love those of whom we are afraid. Our lack of love and concern for the poor is another example and expression of our fear. But we were not created to live our lives in fear. And just as every relationship and every community thrives on love, every relationship and community deteriorates in fear.

Life itself depends on love and flourishes in it. A good life is an act of love. Love creates and makes sacred the spaces where we live for God and with each other. And the church is such a community, creating sacred spaces where love is known, received and given. Ours is a life governed by love. However, many lives are lived in fear and have not yet come to know the true value of love. But that too can

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...New Assisting Clergy continued from page 1

tional and cultural enrichment opportunities to children in urban settings. In 2004, he began, **In My Father's House Ministries**, a ministry of spiritual empowerment for African American men and boys.

Born in Tuskegee, Alabama, Rev. Thornell grew up in Detroit, Michigan. He has lived in several cities around the country and has traveled extensively abroad. A father of four adult children, Rev. Thornell is married to Dr. Linda Thornell, who is a Speech Therapist.

Rector's Reflection continued from page 1

change; as we live in and through Christ's love, we proclaim the hope of God for all in the world.

My prayer is that each of us will cultivate a sacred space in our lives where love grows and drives away all kinds of fear. For "there is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, ... The one who fears is not made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18).

Until next time, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

John Harmon+

## Parish News

### Trinity Confirms Seven Young People

Kelly Blanks, Lesa Lee, Marchelle Mullings, Henry Ogbuokiri, Martin Okonkwo, Akudo Ukaegbu and Chidibieme Ukaegbu were confirmed at Trinity May 13, 2006. The confirmands were honored at a reception held at Trinity Sunday, June 11. Fr. Harmon gave a brief talk about each of the confirmands and on behalf of Trinity presented a gift to each one.



New confirmands with Fr. Harmon from left (back) Henry Ogbuokiri, Martin Okonkwo, Chidibieme Ukaegbu; (front) Marchelle Mullings, Akudo Ukaegbu, Lesa Lee, Kelly Blanks.

### 2005-2006 Trinity Graduates

Congratulations to the 2005-2006 graduates. Best wishes as you begin your next life's journey.

#### High School

Kelly Blanks  
Jamaal Boyd  
Henry Ogbuokiri  
David Okonkwo  
Chinaemeze Ukaegbu

#### University

Simone Hudson, University of Pittsburgh, Sociology  
(December 2005)  
Nikkia Matthews, Howard University, Nursing

#### Seminary

Donyelle McCray, Virginia Theological Seminary

If we have omitted a 2006 graduate, please e-mail your name and pertinent information to *The Trinitarian* (bdhoward@alum.syracuse.edu or m2moore@comcast.net) or leave a note in *The Trinitarian* mailbox. The names will be published in the fall issue.

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## Senior Ministry

## Senior Ministry News

Guest Speaker Program I-IV

Thank you to all who participated in our 2005-2006 Guest Speaker Program. A strong effort was made to provide the programs that you had indicated were of concern or relevant to your lives. Your comments have been most helpful in looking ahead to the next church year. Please continue to provide feedback.

Heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation are extended to those seniors who worked behind the scenes in countless ways to make it all possible. Thank you, Fitzhugh Brown, Carol Crecy, Charles DeBoe, Martha Motley, and Herman Murray.

Scrapbooking and Tai Chi Classes

Monday scrapbooking classes will take a summer break and return in September.

Tai Chi classes will continue throughout the summer months as scheduled—each Wednesday, 11:00am – 12:00noon. For more information, contact Mrs. Mabra Barge at 301-622-0294

Age-In-Place**Ward 4 Kick-Off  
Saturday, June 17**

Christian Community Group Homes officially brings its Age-In-Place Program to Ward 4. Representatives from Ward 4 Council Member Adrian Fenty's office, ANC commissioners, seniors and other community members will participate in launching this service that will be housed at Trinity Church.

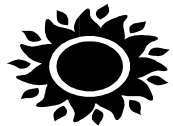
If you are a senior, a resident of the District of Columbia, and live in Ward 4 or 5, you are already eligible to receive **free** help with yard work, painting, house cleaning, and minor repairs to your home.

To avail yourself of these services, contact:

Tawana Moore

Christian Communities Group Homes

202-635-9384



**Have a wonderful summer!**

Diane Robinson, Director  
Senior Ministry/Parish Contact for ESM  
202-291-0696 (Home) or DLR814@aol.com

# Age-In-Place

*small chores  
that bring rewards*



Are you a senior citizen living in Wards 4 or 5 of Washington, DC? Do you find it difficult to keep up your yard work, scrub the floors, vacuum, wash the windows, or clean those out-of-reach places?

The Age-In-Place program, an outreach of Christian Communities Group Homes and Episcopal Senior Ministries, provides free housing services for senior citizens. With the help of committed volunteers, we can mow your yard, clean your kitchen, or paint your fence, among other household chores. Also available for seniors are our Adopt-A-Senior and Telephone Ministry programs, matching volunteers with seniors in providing reassurance and companionship.

If interested, simply fill out the form below and mail to:

Tawana Moore  
Christian Communities Group Homes  
P.O. Box 29643  
Washington, DC 20017

Or call 202-635-9384, ext. 105

-----  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Service Requested:** Adopt-A-Senior \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Ministry \_\_\_\_\_

Yard Work \_\_\_\_\_ House Cleaning \_\_\_\_\_ Painting \_\_\_\_\_ Small Repairs \_\_\_\_\_



*Christian Communities Group Homes is a service of Episcopal Senior Ministries (ESM.)  
For more information call (202) 414-6315 or visit our website; [www.esm.org](http://www.esm.org).*

## Community Concerns

**Cancer Update — Johns Hopkins***Submitted by Barbara Mills***Cancer News from Johns Hopkins:**

1. No plastic containers in micro.
2. No water bottles in freezer
3. No plastic wrap in microwave.

Johns Hopkins has recently sent this out in its newsletters. This information is being circulated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center as well.

Dioxin chemicals causes cancer, especially breast cancer.

Dioxins are highly poisonous to the cells of our bodies. Don't freeze your plastic bottles with water in them as this releases dioxins from the plastic.

Recently, Dr. Edward Fujimoto, Wellness Program Manager at Castle Hospital, was on a TV program to explain this health hazard. He talked about dioxins and how bad they are for us.

He said that we should not be heating our food in the microwave using plastic containers. This especially applies to foods that contain fat. He said that the combination of fat, high heat, and plastics releases dioxin into the food and ultimately into the cells of the body.

Instead, he recommends using glass, such as Corning Ware, Pyrex or ceramic containers for heating food. You get the same results, only without the dioxin. So such things as TV dinners, instant ramen and soups, etc., should be removed from the container and heated in something else. Paper isn't bad but you don't know what is in the paper. It's just safer to use tempered glass, Corning Ware, etc.

He reminded us that a while ago some of the fast food restaurants moved away from the foam containers to paper. The dioxin problem is one of the reasons.

Also, he pointed out that plastic wrap, such as Saran, is just as dangerous when placed over foods to be cooked in the microwave. As the food is nuked, the high heat causes poisonous toxins to actually melt out of the plastic wrap and drip into the food.

Cover food with a paper towel instead.

**Public Warned about Identity Theft E-mail Scam**

Jo Anne Barnhart, Commissioner of Social Security, and Patrick O'Carroll, Jr., Inspector General of Social Security, issued a warning recently about a new email scam that has surfaced recently.

The Agency has received several reports of an email message being circulated. It is addressed to "*Dear Social Security Number And Card owner*" and purports to be from the Social Security Administration. The message informs the reader "*that someone illegally is using your Social Security number and assuming your identity*" and directs the reader to a website designed to look like Social Security's Internet website.

"I am outraged that someone would target an unsuspecting public in this manner," said Commissioner Barnhart. "I have asked the Inspector General to use all the resources at his command to find and prosecute whoever is perpetrating this fraud."

Once directed to the phony website, the individual is asked to confirm their identity with "*Social Security and bank information.*" Specific information about the individual's credit card number, expiration date and PIN number is then requested. "Whether on our online website or by phone, Social Security will never ask you for your credit card information or your PIN number," Commissioner Barnhart said.

Inspector General O'Carroll recommends people always take precautions when giving out personal information. "You should never provide your Social Security number or other personal information over the Internet or by telephone unless you are extremely confident of the source to whom you are providing the information," O'Carroll said.

To report receipt of this email message or other suspicious activity to Social Security's Office of Inspector General, please call the OIG Hotline at 1-800-269-0271. (If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call the OIG TTY number at 1-866-501-2101). A Public Fraud Reporting form is also available online at OIG's website [www.socialsecurity.gov/oig](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/oig).

## TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

7005 Piney Branch Road, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20012

TRINITY EDUCATION, ART AND MUSIC MINISTRY (TEAMM)

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AND SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

- ◆ **Dates:** *June 19 - 30, 2006*
- ◆ **Time:** *9:00 A.M. - 6:30 P.M.*
- ◆ **Student Population:** *Approximately 40 students - ages 5 through 13*

◆ **Schedule:**

- 8:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.** *Student Arrival and Breakfast*
- 9:00 A.M. - 9:20 A.M.** *Morning Devotions*
- 9:25 A.M. - 12:05 P.M.** *Summer Enrichment Program*  
*Art, Dance, Music, Literature/Theater Experiences*
- 12:10 P.M. - 12:40 P.M.** *Lunch*
- 12:40 P.M. - 2:25 P.M.** *Bus Transportation to and from the Tennis Courts at 16th and Kennedy Streets, N. W. (DC)*  
*One Hour of Tennis Instruction (Week I)*
- 2:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.** *Quiet Time - Rest, Reading, Storytelling, Board Games, and Preparation for Vacation Bible School*
- 3:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.** *Vacation Bible School*  
*Opening Assembly and Devotions*  
*Lessons from the Bible*  
*Lesson Application and Lessons for Life*  
*(Activities will include reading, storytelling, games, arts & crafts and music.)*
- 6:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.** *Dinner and Discussion With Parents*

◆ **Arts Activities and Experiences:**

- Homeroom and class groups of not more than 8-10 students
- Grouping of students by age/grade/developmental levels
- Integration of the history of and arts in Washington, D. C.
- Reading, creative writing, journalizing, vocabulary development and other language arts experiences
- Arts instruction and experiences facilitated by professional artists, musicians and teachers in the Trinity-based music, dance, visual arts, and literature/drama studios
- Drama workshop conducted by a professional children's theater ensemble
- Field trips to museums, galleries, and the Washington National Cathedral for extended arts experiences

◆ **Field Trips**

- National Museum of African Art - tour and interactive exhibits (all students)
- Washington National Cathedral
  - study of Gothic architecture and "hands-on" art productions (ages 10-13)
  - tour and "hands-on" art work related to stories and symbols of the Cathedral - creation of a stained-glass window design, needlepoint, sculpture, and other works (ages 5-9)
- Folger Shakespeare Library - first-hand experiences related to Shakespeare and the English Renaissance include trying on costumes, speaking lines from Shakespeare on stage and other activities (ages 10-13)*
- Corcoran Gallery of Art - instruction and use of basic elements of art - shapes, lines, and color - in creating a four-color silk-screen (ages 5-9)*

◆ **Other Activities**

*Tennis Instruction (Week I) - introduction to and/or strengthening of basic tennis skills facilitated by tennis instructors at the Washington Tennis and Education Foundation, 16th and Kennedy Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C. (available to all students)*

*Golf Instruction (Week II) -introduction to golf basics - stance, grip, drive, and putt. Instruction will be conducted at Trinity Episcopal Church, and students will use "whiffle" balls. (available to all students)*

◆ **Meals and Approximate Serving Time**

*Breakfast (8:45 A.M.)*

*Morning Snacks (10:15 A.M.)*

*Lunch (12:05 P.M.)*

*Afternoon Snacks/Fruit (2:25 P.M.)*

*Cold Drinks during the Tennis and Golf Period (as needed)*

*Evening Snacks related to the Scripture - Vacation Bible School (4:15 P.M.)*

*Dinner with Parents and Students (6:30 P.M. )*

◆ **Special Notes for Parents:**

***Parental/Guardian Consent***

*A registration form signed by parent(s)/guardian(s) is required for student participation in the program.*

*A signed parental/guardian consent form is required for student participation in tennis and golf instruction.*

*A signed parental/guardian consent form is required for student participation in field trips.*

***Attire***

*Students should wear tennis shoes/sneakers for tennis and golf instruction.*

*The Folger Shakespeare Library and other museums and galleries are climate-controlled and may be quite chilly; therefore, students should bring sweaters. The Folger Shakespeare Library is generally too cold for shorts, and students may wish to bring shorts for tennis, but wear other attire for the Folger experience. The Folger field trip is for students ages 10-13.*

***Health Information***

*Parents/guardians must ensure that the registration form contains necessary medical information such as allergies, special needs and requirements, emergency contact, and physician's name and telephone number.*

*Additional Information*

*Mrs. Lorena Thompson-Thompson 202-726-7036*

*Dr. Shelia G. Handy 301-249-6356*

**The Reverend Canon John T. W. Harmon  
Rector  
Trinity Episcopal Church**

## News We Missed

## Mabra Barge Elected to Board of Episcopal Senior Ministries

Trinity member Mabra Barge was elected to the Board of Episcopal Senior Ministries (ESM) in 2005. Mrs. Barge has been a leader of the senior ministry at Trinity and an ESM Parish Contact. Having previously joined the Parish Senior Ministries Council of ESM, which coordinates ESM's outreach to parishes, Mrs. Barge will continue her service on the Council as a member of the Board. ESM is a non-profit organization that improves the lives of older adults through a range of quality affordable programs including housing, care management, transportation, education, and volunteer training and support. Services are available to all seniors, families and community members regardless of religious affiliation. For more information about ESM, call (202) 414-6315 or visit our website: [www.esm.org](http://www.esm.org).

## Praise Power at Preaching Mission

*Submitted by Raymond Blanks*

Buds of spring had sprung to life as the evening sun went down a week before Easter with cloudy skies and a brisk breeze. Time for the annual preaching mission emerged like the clockwork of a new season. Energy, effort and excitement echoed among members of the Evangelism Committee (chaired by Mary Myers-Nelson). Adhering to their assigned tasks, some members greeted guest choir members while others passed out programs. Christian Bruce and Adrienne Vyfhuis led a service of praise and worship. Before the service, Maggie the Chef, laid out a spread of black eye pea salad, roasted children, rice and a bed of greens. The guest preacher, the nationally recognized Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright from Chicago, sat at the head table with Father John Harmon.

The Metropolitan Women's Choir entered the church with a rhythmic sway like the saints marching to Zion. Several worshipers stood before the congregation to share testimonies about the goodness of God. Scriptures were read, prayers were prayed and a stirring song was sung to stimulate the spirit before the proclamation of the preacher.

Without a clerical robe, but with an elegant suit similar to the color of his silver hair and a worn Bible, the acclaimed preacher, who is listed among one of America's best preachers according to *Ebony Magazine*, took the pulpit slowly, displayed his sharp wit briefly, and eventually transformed his sermon into a powerful teaching moment based on the first chapter of the Book of Joshua. Consistent with the tradition of Black preaching, Wright divided the sermon into a typical three points paradigm. He first focused on walking in God's way, followed by a walking in God's will, and concluding with "walking worthy and in a godly manner."

The whole of creation, Wright asserted, seeks a successful relationship with God. This goal, he advised, requires several essentials including the ability to talk honestly with God, to accept directions from God, and to trust God completely. Life with God, he added, also requires the necessity to meditate in order to live a good life. Meditation, he explained, involves wrestling with the word intensely in order to grasp what it says and how it applies meaning to life. He added that meditation in its deepest meaning is "to pronounce, to say out loud, to repeat" until the word resonates in our consciousness, understanding and behavior.

Wright declared that people of faith "often confuse blessings with bling bling." "Leaning on the Lord," he advised, requires that we "stop depending on our own strength" and recognize that, "They that wait upon the Lord also realize that we're not in this battle by ourselves." The good life, Wright maintained, is only achieved with "an attitude of waiting for direction and deliverance." Too frequently, the preacher cracked, Christians "major in minutia and focus on the minutia instead of the meaning, and we end up in a mess."

The life of the believer, Wright suggested, is similar to a pilot's dependence on the air traffic controller. The faithful, he emphasized, must be like the pilot, who trusts another to direct his path. Deep faith, he concluded, reveals constantly and consistently that "God is with us, a faithful promise keeper," who leads us as He led Joshua to the promise land.

### Trinity in the Community

## Trinity Hosts HIV/AIDS Summit

*By Raymond Blanks*

A surprising cultural event was held recently in the District that marked a dramatic social shift. More than 100 clergy and lay leaders of mainline congregations and storefront churches gathered together as an ecumenical African American religious community. The event was The Clergy Leadership Summit on HIV and was sponsored by the Trinity Development Corporation. The theme of the all day conference was, "Love Is Thicker Than Blood," to underscore the urgent need for the faith community to act with compassion and unleash the strength to love people on the social margins. The church finally wrestled with this health challenge as this epidemic reached its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The summit called on the religious leadership to increase its presence and provide programs among people living with HIV or AIDS. It was the largest faith-based event related to HIV ever held among black church leaders in the District.

Silence and aloofness largely represented the faith community's attitudes about this disease that impacts primarily marginalized people: gays, drug users, sex workers and ex-offenders. Infections transmitted primarily through sex or shared needles paralyzed the church's response.

The summit was an unusual event because the overwhelming majority of the black faith community ignored and was indifferent about this health issue. Most churches have avoided the need to provide ministries or programs to the sick and the suffering. The church's absence as soldiers in the cohort of compassionate and committed advocates and activists also resulted from the disturbing lack of leadership by the Mayor and the incompetent, inadequate and ineffective health services provided by his administration in combatting the astonishing and rising rate of infections in the District.

Another unusual element of the summit was the caliber of synergy engendered between the faith community in partnership with the District government. Councilman David Catania expressed his appreciation for their presence and involvement in fostering new alliances to prevent HIV.

Marsha Martin, the senior deputy of the Administration for HIV Policies and Programs, solicited the support of participants for a new initiative to test all District residents for HIV between 14 and 84 years of age. Linda Cropp, the Council's chair, praised the pastors for their new commitment to halt the rising rates of HIV. The significance of this new communion "between church and state" was that elected and faith leaders engaged in an unfiltered and honest conversation to develop a more adequate common agenda. There were no echoes of "faggots and sissies" as recently uttered in a sermon by Bishop Alfred Owens. Dialogue occurred between the secular and sacred sectors to work cooperatively for the common good.

Perhaps the most astonishing effect of this event was the power of truth spoken that confessed the sin of omission that has marred the church's past positions on serving those infected with HIV. No one celebrated their sanctimonious holiness or superiority but instead focused on the cardinal mandate of faith to practice only love, not judgment or avoidance. Strident statements about the use of condoms, a proven prevention technique, were not heard. No one called for a moratorium of morals based on faith to reach out to all people living with HIV and AIDS. Disturbing behaviors of those infected or of the church's previous lack of service were not ignored. Dr. Calvin Butts, the keynote speaker, urged participants to be authentic and honest, adhere to the biblical ideal of love and engage in works of faith consistent with the obligation to serve especially sick people stigmatized by shame. The Rev. Canon John T. W. Harmon, Trinity's rector, insisted that the increasing scope of this health crisis requires new works by the faith community. Healing was emphasized more than converting people to faith. Other presenters emphasized a theology of service to the suffering based on the biblical commandment to love.

This summit may yet yield an increased energy and stimulate new efforts by black clergy and leaders while this health crisis impacts one of every twenty District residents, the highest rate of infection in the nation. Tomorrow we may see new witnesses of works by the church "in the army of the Lord" on the battlefield against HIV. More importantly, the church will evidence an unfettered love to succor the sick and even encourage the audacity to hope amidst the specter of increasing sickness and continuing deaths. This

summit perhaps represents the powerful possibility that the marginalized previously ignored will be finally included on the church's mission because of its potent power to share love even among "the least of these."

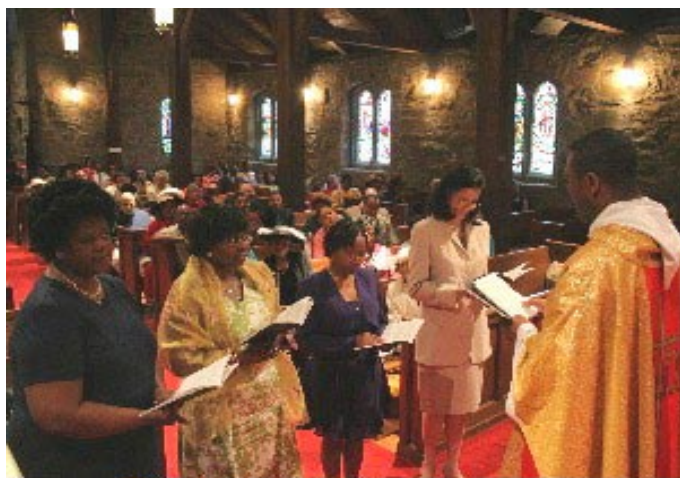
*Raymond S. Blanks, is a member of the vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church and serves as a member of the District's HIV Community Planning Group.*

**Daughters of the King**

**Daughters of the King - New Officers**

The new officers of the Trinity Chapter of the Daughters of the King were presented to the congregation Sunday, June 11.

- President: Barbara Jarvis
- Vice-President: Joan Taylor-Brown
- Secretary: Marcia Mullings
- Treasurer: Jeffphine Dawson



*Daughters of the King, new officers: Joan Taylor-Brown, Marcia Mullings, Jeffphine Dawson, Barbara Jarvis*

**Parish News (cont'd. from p.2)**

**Baby News**

Kevin Berthoud and Diane Forbes introduced the newest member of their family, Joel Nathan, to the congregation Sunday, June 11. Joel was born May 5, 2006. Congratulations to the Berthoud-Forbes family.

Tyler Avery Tyson, the son of Mark and Timika Tyson, was also introduced to Trinity Sunday, June 11. Mark was born May 29, 2006. Congratulations to the Tyson family.

**In the Community**

We're trying something new. We don't solicit advertising, The cost of our production is volunteer effort, and we copy the newsletter in-house. After having been asked to print the following as a favor to a vendor in the community, we have provided this space. Let us know whether you want to see ads in *The Trinitarian*.

**Phoenix Design**



**Specialty Boutique**

Bridal and Formal Wear . Prom  
 First Communion . Sweet 15/16 .  
 Debutante . Fashion Consultant .  
 Coordinator .  
 Expert Alterations & Restyling

11:00 to 7:00 Mon Through Sat

1702 14th st NW Wash, DC 20011 202-882-7330 marysbridal.com



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4702 14th st NW Wash, DC 202 327 0449

## Book Review

**Black African Popes, Roman Emperors,  
and Christian Martyrs***by Art Taylor*

Would it surprise you to know that there were three Black African Popes of the Roman Catholic Church? Did you know that there were several Black African Christian Martyrs and Saints? Who knew that there were also three Black African Roman Emperors (Septimius Severus; Helvius Pertinax; and Didius Julianus)? The histories of these and other illustrious Africans are carefully revealed in a fascinating little book entitled "Blacks Before America". Dr. Mark Hyman, a Howard University graduate who received his doctorate degree from Temple University, is the author. According to Hyman's research, Pope Victor was a Black African who became the fifteenth Pope of the Roman Catholic Church. Pope Victor served as Pontiff for over 10 years (186 AD to 197 AD), and is credited as the person responsible for initiating the church's practice of allowing acolytes to assist clergy. Pope Victor is buried in the Vatican, next to the Apostle Peter. Another Black Pope was Pope Milatades or Melchiades. He headed the church for about four and a half years from 311 AD to 314 AD. One of Pope Milatades acts was to decree that Christians should no longer follow the practice of fasting on either Sunday or the fifth day of the week. He maintained that to do so would be following pagan traditions. Later, about 178 years after Pope Milatades died, Pope Gelasius became the third Black

Pontiff. This Pope served from 492 AD to 496 AD. He is also buried in a place of honor in the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome.

You may already know that St Augustine was the son of an African Christian woman named Monica. St Augustine served as Bishop of Hippo, "a Numidian city of Algiers in North Africa." The author reminds us that "Saint Augustine's influence on Christianity is believed to be second only to that of Saint Paul." Dr. Hyman further notes that "Carthage was a black nation and a huge North African city". It is the city that produced Black churchmen like St Turtullian and St Cyprian. Among other accomplishments, St. Turtullian made Latin the official language of the church. Another famous Carthaginian the book brings to our attention is Hannibal, the renowned general and conqueror. The book explains that in the early church, "Few were amazed that there were Black Popes and Black fathers" because anti-Black racism became a social malady only much later, and also because "Black African countries showed more consideration for Christians and Christianity than other nations did."

This book is chocked full of facts and little known information about the role of Black people, not only in the development of Christianity, but also in ancient politics, commerce, and cultural history. If you are looking for a great gift for someone, especially for young adults, or even for yourself, this is it. I only wish that I had found it myself years ago. "Blacks Before America" is published by Africa World Press, Inc., PO Box 1892, Trenton, NJ 08607, (\$12.95).

## REMINDER

**Mid-Year Parochial Meeting**

**Sunday, June 25, 2006**  
after worship service

Only one service, at 9 a.m.

***PRAISE TO OUR DADS AND GRADS***

*To all Trinity parishioners, enjoy the summer!*

The Reverend Canon John T.W. Harmon, *Rector*  
The Reverend Canon Kwasi Thornell, *Assisting Clergy*  
Ronald Byrd, *Seminarian*  
Donyelle McCray, *Seminarian*  
Priscilla Gay, *Parish Secretary*  
George Clinton, *Warden, Tower*  
Lee-Folia Brunt, *Choir Director*  
Victor Phillips, *Organist/Assistant Choir Director*  
Donald Roberts, *Treasurer*  
Cora Dixon, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Marshall Ford, *Assistant Treasurer*

**Vestry**  
Chiemeka Opaigbeogu, *Senior Warden*  
Mary Johnson, *Junior Warden*  
Orlando Anderson  
Kevin Berthoud  
Raymond Blanks  
James Brown  
Carol Crecy  
Cora Dixon  
Marshall Ford

Barbara Mills  
Rodney Lewis  
Leo Williams, Jr.  
Michelle Murphy,  
*Youth Rep.*  
David Okonkwo,  
*Youth Rep.*

**Communications Committee**  
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Mike Moore, *Production Editor*  
Raymond Blanks  
Joan Taylor Brown  
Marshall Ford  
Mary Myers-Nelson, *Web Asst.*  
Hilda Sylla, *Web Technician*  
Gwen Turner

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