

# THE TRINITARIAN

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## Bishop Chane

### Parish Meeting with Bishop Chane

*Submitted by Barbara Harris Jarvis, Vestry Secretary*

Bishop John Chane met with the parishioners on Thursday, June 2, 2005 for a question and answer session on current issues of concern. The discussion was designed as an open session in which the Bishop would address concerns of the parishioners about decisions on any and all areas of the Episcopal Church. The discussion (synopsis) proceeded as follows:

Fr. Harmon introduced the Bishop and opened the dialog at 7:20pm.

[Q] Parishioner: Trinity is in transition and is losing membership. We are moving from a pastoral church to a program church. Volunteers are burning out. Does the Diocese have any suggestions for aiding the transition.

[A] Bishop Chane: Trinity is not alone in this struggle. There are cultural changes in society, in past years there were two-parent families and traditionally only one worked. This is not always true today. The

*continued on page 6*

## Rector's Reflection

### St. Peter and St. Paul, 29 June 2005

*Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in health; I know that it is well with your soul. For I greatly rejoiced when some of the brethren arrived and testified to the truth of your life, as indeed you do follow the truth. No greater joy can I have than this, to hear that my children follow the truth. III John 1-4.*

Beloved:

I will be celebrating this October five years of ministry together with you at Trinity. Time flies. As I reflect on our ministry together, I am amazed that these years have simply passed so quickly, especially since I also feel that we are only just beginning to press forward and to live into the ministry to which we have been called. Of course, you have accomplished much during this period, and I have been blessed to be a witness to your works of faith.

There is so much that reminds me of what we have achieved together during this brief time and in this part of God's vineyard known as Trinity. You have repaired the leaking roofs over the parish hall and the church, and restored several stained glass windows. You have renovated the rectory as an additional site for effective ministry. The rectory now produces supplementary income that supports and supplants our budget. I find equally, if not more impressive, your energy for engaging these new ministries – the Children's Choir, the TEAMM after school tutoring program, the Vacation Bible School, the Summer Enrichment Program, the Liturgical Dance Ministry, the Advent Circle, the Preaching Mission, the Senior and Junior Daughters of the King, the Tai chi and Scrapbooking classes for

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seniors, the Nursery, and the Choir concerts, to list a few among the various developments in our ministry.

I continue to remain impressed with the faithful continuity of other ministries. The Acolyte, Altar and Lay Readers Guilds, the repast committee, the Adult Choir, the Sunday School, TECW, Men of Trinity, the Trinitarian, the vestry, among so many other services provided by Trinity members.

In addition to celebrating these initial five years of ministry with you in October, I will also be contemplating a sabbatical. I invite those who have a strong interest in working with me to help plan a productive sabbatical and consider the implications for Trinity to speak with me about their interest and hopes, and the benefit of their prayers in this period of discernment. I am anticipating a prayerful planning experience. Persons interested in serving on a Sabbatical Planning Committee should be prepared to make a one-year commitment. I am seeking persons who will work with me in exploring ways God is working in our lives and ministry at Trinity. It is important to note that the Sabbatical is not a planning to leave Trinity experience. As previously mentioned, I feel we are just beginning to live into the ministry we have been strengthened to do in this place. The best of our ministry and efforts, I am confident, is yet to come. I am inviting the prayers of everyone for this and all that we undertake at Trinity.

Now more importantly, you have given me a sacred opportunity to live out my vocation among you, to serve God faithfully and experience visions of the holy with you, to desire that all is well with you, to pray that you are in good health, and especially to know that it is well with your soul. Moreover, I rejoice in knowing that we are a community of faith, living in God's abundant love and seeking a holy truth that strengthens our faith. I am convinced however, articulated or not, that all of ministry, yours and mine, is an activity of pointing and helping the soul to turn and remain devoted to, to be anchored and find itself in God who is our true home. For without a place in God, all of life is meaningless. And so, I pray that we will continue to hold fast to keen understandings that keep us grounded in God, and yet seek new and creative ways that remind and invite the soul back to its home in God, the source of life and truth.

May God bless you this summer with the warmth of Christ's love.

Until next time, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

**CORRECTION**

Photographer Paul Smith's name was inadvertently omitted as one of two photographers who took photographs of Trinity's Preaching Mission 2005 in the April/May issue of The Trinitarian. We regret this omission.

**The Trinitarian Calendar for 2005**

Meeting Dates	Issue	Article Submission Deadline	Distribution Date (Estimate)
	Winter	January 16	January 30
February 13	Easter	February 10	March 27
April 3	Spring	April 17	May 8
May 15	Summer	May 18	July 10
September 11	October	September 17	October 9
October 9	November	October 10	November 13
November 13	December	November 10	December 11

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## Vestry Notes

### Vestry Minutes

*Minutes submitted by Barbara Jarvis*

*This presentation has been capsulized by The Trinitarian staff. Copies of complete minutes are available in the Parish Hall.*

The minutes of the March 2005 Vestry meeting and the April 7, 2005 Special Vestry Call Meeting were reviewed and discussed. Changes and corrections as approved by the Vestry to the two meetings can be read in the copies distributed in the Parish Hall.

#### Comments on Past Activities

**Preaching Mission.** The Preaching Mission has been very well received. Carol Crecy stated that it was used to augment the Evangelism mission in that it became a means to invite individuals into Trinity. It was noted that the Vestry should take a leadership role in encouraging participation in the various activities.

**Good Friday Services and Choir Concert.** The choir concert was very well received.

**Easter Services.** There were slightly fewer parishioners present this year.

**The Bus.** Cora Dixon reported that a committee has been established to investigate volunteers (8-10 individuals) who will serve as drivers for the bus. They will require a chauffeur's license, and it is hoped that Trinity will pay for the license.

**A Vestry Member Request/Appeal.** Kevin Berthoud commented that in December 2004 the Vestry decided it would receive reports on committee processes and procedures. The various committee report formats were to be reviewed in an effort to provide the information in its most readable and useful format. It was also decided that processes and procedures would be outlined as well. It was determined that information may be present within a report, but it may not be clear to the reader. The Vestry had resolved that each committee would

submit a sample format for reports and that the Vestry would make a determination on this format. It is hoped that periodic review of processes and procedures and reporting mechanisms will better provide Trinity with the information it requires and will also serve to track such things as contributions earmarked for specific purposes. At the December meeting, the Vestry had agreed to have the committees submit their report format for review, by the first quarter of 2005. The purpose of this action is to improve our system of reporting. Discussion followed and it was noted that many procedures are in place and have been working well.

#### Special Presentations:

**Parking at Trinity:** Discussion of this matter will be tabled until the May Vestry meeting.

**Homecoming 2005:** Dionne Jones, Co-Chair Homecoming, presented her report. The proposed schedule of events is for a Friday evening jazz concert (fundraiser for the music ministry), Saturday health fair and fun day (fundraiser for youth ministry), and for Sunday service and reception. The proposed budget for the weekend of activities is \$15,850, of which \$6,900 is allocated for the Friday jazz concert, \$4,050 is allocated for the Saturday activities, and \$4,900 is allocated for the Sunday service and reception. Last year the Homecoming was for only one day (Sunday) but this year there will be an entire weekend devoted to Homecoming. The committee is planning to sell tickets (\$30 - \$35) for the jazz concert which will take place in the parish hall. The Saturday activities will include such things as a "bounce" for the children, which will be placed at the Takoma School. They will be asking the Men of Trinity to donate hot dogs which can be sold. The Sunday service will feature Bishop Martin, Suffragan bishop of Long Island, New York (retired). The weekend is planned as an outreach for the community and there are plans to give out mementos with Trinity's name inscribed. A detailed budget for the project will be submitted to the Finance Committee. For planning purposes, the committee estimates

that there will be approximately 175 people participating. Fr. Harmon suggested that other parishes be asked for their patronage (ads for souvenir booklet) and this may offset some of the costs.

### Vestry Actions

Item A: Vestry Retreat and Diocesan Pledge for (2005).

Fr. Harmon asked that the Vestry indicate to the Diocese that our pledge will be as reflected in the budget. Marshall Ford stated that since the Vestry had already voted on a pledge amount, this action was unnecessary. Fr. Harmon expressed his concern that in previous years Trinity had to reduce its pledge.

Item B: Snow closure policy for Workdays. This topic was not discussed.

Item C: St. George's Church Anniversary Celebration.

Fr. Harmon stated that St. George's (DC) will be celebrating its anniversary and has asked for our support in the form of an ad in their souvenir journal. It was moved and seconded that Trinity take an ad in the journal and that we purchase a \$50 ad.

Item D: Reimbursement — William Neal (Good Friday Concert). Fr. Harmon asked that the Vestry reimburse Mr. Neal for the Good Friday Choir Concert. Fr. Harmon is asking for reimbursement of \$1,150 for Mr. Neal. The Vestry agreed and it was pointed out that Mr. Neal has already been paid the \$1,150 reimbursement.

Item E: Conferences — Afro-Anglican (July 2005) and Black Clergy (October 2005). Fr. Harmon asked that this topic be tabled until next month.

Item F: Rectory—Securing for Renovation. Fr. Harmon asked that this topic be tabled until next month.

Item G: Ordination Gift – Brooks Hundley, Seminarian.

Fr. Harmon asked that the Vestry provide a gift or cash for the ordination of Brooks Hundley. It was moved and seconded that we provide a cash gift of \$350.

### Reports and Discussion

Item A: Parish Life Committee. Carol Crecy distributed the report of the Parish Life Committee. Among the

items noted: the Parish Handbook, containing information of all ministries, will be available by summer 2005. The committee also plans to chart the organizational structure of various ministries.

Item B: Property Report. Mary Johnson distributed the report of the Property Committee. Among the report items noted was that the use of the Dahlia House by the Epiphany School was well received by that group.

Item C: Treasurer's Report. Isaac Marks distributed the Treasurer's Report. Regarding the financial statement: All of the 2004 invoices have been paid with the exception of American Mechanical Service because of discrepancies. A detailed accounting of the Treasurer's Report was published in the April/May issue of the Trinitarian.

### Rector's Update

Item A: Bishop Chane's Visit, TVC, Mid-Year Meeting.

Fr. Harmon reported that Bishop Chane will be visiting Trinity on Sunday, May 22, 2005. It is expected that he will meet with the young people and will address the adult forum. Fr. Harmon asks that the Vestry meet at 9:15 am in the Trinity Room on that Sunday. He stated that he has been working to revive the Trinity Volunteer Corps program. He has asked Liezille Mogabalane to serve as Acting Program Director. A common application process is under development and may be used with national church office so that interested applicants may use the same form to apply to any program. In the interim, Hilda Sylla has posted the current application on the Trinity web site.

Item B: Cost of Living, W-2, Easter Break. Fr. Harmon distributed his report. Regarding the Rector's W-2, he stated that Trinity had made all required payments to the church pension fund. He is also asking that his travel plan be changed to an accountable plan.

### General Discussion

Adrienne Vyfhuis discussed the Spring Bling youth. She expressed concern about the accounting for all money turned over to Trinity from this activity. It was

noted that teachers are continually spending their own money for supplies and other needs for the youth ministries. She said that the parish and the Vestry need to be more supportive of the youth at Trinity. She stated that if we believe that the youth ministries are important that we need to support them. She said they have such limited funds for their activities; teachers are constantly subsidizing activities. She wants to know the amount allotted to the ministry. Regarding funds, Ms. Vyfhuis said her greatest concern is that her Sunday School group might be lumped in with the Teen Group which means her youth ministry would be strapped for funds. It was suggested that the Vestry needs to place this topic on its agenda and to work with Ms. Vyfhuis so that there is a clear level of understanding by all. The Vestry has one perception of understanding and the youth ministries have another. Fr. Harmon stated that he would add this topic to some future agenda.

**Church Question**

*e-mail submission*

Dear Lord," the priest said and he began a prayer with arms extended and a rapturous look on his upturned face, "without you we are but dust..." He would have continued, but at that moment a little girl leaned over to her mother and asked quite audibly, "Mommy, WHAT is butt dust?" Church was pretty much over at that point...



**The Chanes and the Harmons on Trinity Sunday, June 22, 2005**

**TECW**

**TECW Awards Scholarships**

Over 75 people, including Fr. Harmon and Canon Olifiers, attended the TECW closing luncheon held at Restaurant Pier 7 June 18. Senior Warden Vince Adams was the guest speaker. The highlight of the luncheon was TECW's presentation of three scholarships to Trinity high school seniors Amlyv Harvey, who will be attending the College of Southern Maryland in LaPlata, Maryland; Malcolm Hendricks, who will be attending Earlham College in Pennsylvania; and Augustine (Auggie) Sanders, who will be attending Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. As they have done for several years, Canon Olifiers and his wife, Jeanne, also presented a scholarship donation to each of the three graduates. Congratulations to the three scholarship recipients and good luck as you matriculate in the fall.

**FYI**

**Liturgical Dance**

Liturgical Dance is a deeply spiritual experience that should never be viewed as a performance or entertainment. Rather, it is a shared experience between the dancer and the people "to stir the souls" of the congregation, lifting their hearts and spirits to the Lord. Liturgical dance is a way of lifting the hearts and minds of a congregation to God and a means of making the wonders of Christian belief more moving.

The Liturgical Dance Ministry is prayer through the movement of dance using the body, mind and spirit to lead us to Christ. Liturgical Dancing are movements that we already use in praying, such as the sign of the cross, kneeling and standing. Liturgical dance has existed from the time of the Old Testament. It has gone through a number of changes and has become a wonderful ministry.

**Parish Meeting with Bishop Chane...***continued from page 1*  
 church of today is separate from our lives whereas in past years it was a more central part of life. Today, parishioners are at church because they made a conscious effort to sacrifice something else so that they could attend church. We need to encourage this by having programs that nurture children and the elderly that celebrate diversity. Regarding the giving, he noted that people will give if they can identify the reason/purpose for the giving and have a clear understanding of what their money is being used toward. He stated that a recent review of Trinity's records indicate that over the last ten years, there has been a decline in the number of pledge units being recorded:

189 pledge units ten years ago

84 pledge units today

67% decline represented

As a result of Trinity and other parishes giving less, the Diocese is faced with having to reduce staff and programs to fit into the currently available funds. Trinity is not alone in having reduced the size of its giving. Other parishes are also experiencing the same situation.

[Q] Parishioner: Is it the size of the congregation which determines whether a parish is a pastoral church as opposed to a program church or are other factors involved.

[A] Bishop Chane: Pastoral churches have usually 110-125 worshipers per Sunday (both services together) and are such that every parishioner knows one another. There is one priest and it is closer knit. The program church has 150-300 worshipers each Sunday (both services together) and the size is such that one priest cannot do so many things. There is usually an assistant priest, there are committees and sub-committees which accomplish tasks and there is less of each parishioner knowing everyone else. Trinity has the attendance but not necessarily the willingness of volunteers for the various tasks.

[Q] Parishioner: The way each of sees scripture has caused a divide in many churches. Please comment on the authority of scripture vs. collegiality.

[A] Bishop Chane: Christianity is an exiled religion in that it does not hold the same place in folks' lives as it once did. Church had a larger place in our lives for past generations and when we were younger. There were "blue laws" in communities which did not allow businesses to open on Sunday and family life was centered around church activities (e.g., dances etc.). That is not necessarily true today. Also, today we question whose interpretation of scripture is valid and each denomination has its own interpretation of what they believe the scripture says. We as a people do not wish to answer difficult questions of our time and it seems difficult to translate the teachings of Jesus into our lives because we are human and frail. The word of God is the truth. Also, taking a literal interpretation of The Bible leads us to face difficult issues. Some issues are clear and some are less so.

[Q] Parishioner: How do you define diversity? What do you mean by it? How does sexuality fit into this?

[A] Bishop Chane: The Anglican Communion is becoming brown. Lots of African immigrants are in the Anglican Communion and also people from Latin America who are not Pentecostal nor are they Catholic. Regarding sexuality, we are all challenged to try to understand those who are unlike ourselves and to try to include all of God's people. The church is in a difficult place now and there is a serious split over this issue. One's individual sexual issues are not anyone's concern but rather we should be concerned that we are all living according to God's Plan. If one reads The Bible literally, one must be prepared for some shocks. God asks that we love everyone, regardless.

[Q] Parishioner: Age is an issue at Trinity and it is often difficult to keep up with the ministries as in the past. Regarding pledging, different nationalities of people handle this differently and it seems as if many of the nationalities do not pledge at all; nor do the young people of the parish.

[A] Bishop Chane: All parishes need to challenge

their parishioners and strongly urge parishioners to pledge. There is also a difference in pledging that is due to age. A generation ago, folks were more likely to give than may be true of younger folks. Churches can also encourage membership (and therefore contributions) based upon the programs that are available. For example, dance programs, music programs, nursery and children's programs attract folks. People will be attracted to a church in which the Holy Spirit is present.

[Comment] Parishioner: Many people give outside of pledging. They do not pledge, but still give to Trinity; therefore the pledge amounts may not represent all of the contributions that are received.

[Q] Parishioner: Trinity does not say what any of its funds are ever used for. We have no idea where/how money is spent.

[A] Bishop Chane: There really needs to be transparency in the budget and with all finances. This is essential.

[Q] Parishioner: Trinity feels like a "sad" church in many ways. There are cultural issues here at Trinity and there needs to be healing on all sides. We cannot move to be a program church until these issues are resolved.

[A] Bishop Chane: There needs to be a connection between one another. We need to try to understand one another.

[Q] Parishioner: I have never been confused as a Christian but I do not understand this issue of sexuality that is affecting and dividing the church. It seems to be against the scriptures; we should love the person but hate the action. Is the church supporting this act? What do you say to your children about this?

[A] Bishop Chane: What do you tell your children about Noah, about King David, about divorce? The Bible is all about our "human-ness". The future of the church is addressing these hard realities. There are issues of urban living such as HIV Aids, people living below the poverty line, crime—and we are arguing about things we will probably never agree on. We need to do what Jesus calls us to do—go into the world and enjoy

one another and forgive one another and love one another. Instead, we argue about who is right about how The Bible is translated.

[Q] Parishioner: How can we get an effective program model that will involve the entire congregation? Attendance at Daughters of The King, for example, is also low.

[A] Bishop Chane: First we need to consider where prayer is within our lives. We need to find out where the daily discipline of prayer is, and it is so personal for each one of us. We cannot do a prayer group, for example, because we have trouble getting everyone together. We need to try to get together to pray (could be a moment of silence or something else). We can also use The Daily Office, a publication which has a lesson for each day. We could read one lesson and one Psalm and then be silent.

[Q] Parishioner: I believe the Holy Spirit will work in us if we just submit to it.

[A] Bishop Chane: The problem is that nobody likes to "submit" to anything and we live in a culture that teaches us that we can master anything. It doesn't hit folks until something really severe happens, that we cannot control things. Then we use prayer. Each of us needs the gift of the Holy Spirit.

[Q] Parishioner: Religion in America is concerned with gays and abortion and stem cells and all sorts of things. If we live out the Gospel, and we struggle to do this, we will be less concerned with these things. We need to remember that God loves all of us.

[A] Bishop Chane: We need to "do the right thing" which means to take care of one another, to look out for those less fortunate. We need to be people of justice and compassion instead of arguing about these other things.

[Q] Parishioner: The vestry wrestled with this issue several weeks ago; we are undergoing a Diocesan ordered financial review and we want to know why. Basically the issue seems to be that there is a lack of

The Congregation had questions...

understanding about our financial process and this issue has now been cleared up. The Diocese has expectations of the parishes and the parishes try to accommodate the appearance of growth to meet the expectations. We need to be honest about drawing up a budget based on a realistic number of parishioners. In this way we will avoid the appearance of having financial difficulty where there is none.

[A] Bishop Chane: The Oversight Committee was initiated by me. I have noticed a decline in numbers and needed to investigate.

[Q] Parishioner: Trinity has enough money to meet its budget. The battle is how we spend our money. Often we ignore the budget and spend anyway. The budget is transparent for everyone to see.

[A] Bishop Chane: Parishes need to live by the budget and meet to decide what to do about the issues.

**Benediction and Dismissal:**

Bishop Chane gave the Benediction to the parish.

**Adjournment:**

As there were no other items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

...and the Bishop responded

Photos courtesy of Rod Lewis

## from the Internet

## Spiritual Vitamins

*Submitted by Joyce Berthoud Murray via e-mail*

**Anxious?:** Take Vitamin A..."All things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

**Blue?:** Take Vitamin B..."Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name." (Psalm 103:1)

**Crushed?:** Take Vitamin C..."Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

**Depressed?:** Take Vitamin D..."Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." (James 4:8)

**Empty?:** Take Vitamin E..."Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name." (Psalm 100:4)

**Fearful?:** Take Vitamin F..."Fear not, for I am with you, do not be afraid for I am your God." (Isaiah 41:10)

**Greedy?:** Take Vitamin G..."Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put unto your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:38)

**Hesitant?:** Take Vitamin H..."How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'" (Isaiah 52:7)

**Insecure?:** Take Vitamin I..."I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

**Jittery?:** Take Vitamin J..."Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

**Know nothing?:** Take Vitamin K..."Know this, that the Lord is God, it is He that made us and not we ourselves." (Psalm 100:3)

**Lonely?:** Take Vitamin L..."Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

**Mortgaged?:** Take Vitamin M..."My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

**Nervous?:** Take Vitamin N..."Never, no never will I leave you nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

**Overwhelmed?:** Take Vitamin O..."Overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21)

**Perplexed or puzzled?:** Take Vitamin P..."Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be trouble, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27)

**Quitting?:** Take Vitamin Q ... "quit you like men and women, be strong." (1 Corinthians 16:13)

**Restless?:** Take Vitamin R..."Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him." (Psalm 37:7)

**Scared?:** Take Vitamin S..."Stay with me, and do not be afraid; for the one who seeks my life seeks your life; you will be safe with me." (1 Samuel 22:23)

**Tired?:** Take Vitamin T..."Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall all mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

**Uncertain?:** Take Vitamin U..."Understand that I am the Lord. Before Me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after Me." (Isaiah 43:10)

**Vain?:** Take Vitamin V..."Vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one. (Acts 5:16)

**Wondering what to do?:** Take Vitamin W..."What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

**eXhausted?:** Take Vitamin X..."eXercise thyself rather unto Godliness." (1 Timothy 4:7)

**Yearning for hope?:** Take Vitamin Y..."Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4)

**Zapped?:** Take Vitamin Z..."Zealous for good deeds" (Titus 2:14)

## from the Internet

## Makes Sense

*Submitted by Gwen Turner via e-mail*

Have you ever been driving down the road at 50 or 60 mph, passed a church and tried to read the sign out front? Here are a few that may amuse you. Some may sound funny, corny, or serious, but they always carry a good message.

- “Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.”
- “The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.”
- “Under same management for over 2000 years.”
- “Soul food served here.”
- “Tithe if you love Jesus! Anyone can honk!”
- “Beat the Christmas rush, come to church this Sunday!”
- “Don’t wait for the hearse to take you to church.”
- “Don’t give up. Moses was once a basket case.”
- “Wal-Mart isn’t the only saving place!”
- “Prevent truth decay. Brush up on your Bible.”
- “It’s hard to stumble when you’re down on your knees.”
- “What part of ‘THOU SHALT NOT’ don’t you understand?”
- “A clear conscience makes a soft pillow.”
- “Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive.”
- “Can’t sleep? Try counting your blessings.”
- “Forbidden fruit creates many jams.”
- “Christians, keep the faith — but not from others!”
- “Satan subtracts and divides. God adds and multiplies.”
- “If you don’t want to reap the fruits of sin, stay out of the devil’s orchard.”
- “To belittle is to be little.”
- “Don’t let the littleness in others bring out the littleness in you.”
- “God answers knee mail.”
- “Life has many choices. Eternity has two. What’s yours?”
- “Worry is interest paid on trouble before it is due.”
- “The wages of sin is death. Repent before payday.”
- “Try Jesus. If you don’t like Him, the devil will always take you back”

## TEAMM

## Trinity Celebrates Takoma Students

*By Raymond Blanks*

On a bright, sunny spring day, a cadre of 30 students from the Takoma Educational Center marched across the street like saints marching to Zion to Trinity Church. They came bursting with excitement for a closing ceremony to celebrate their successful participation in the Trinity Education, Arts and Music Ministry (TEAMM) tutorial program. The program staffed by volunteers from Trinity provided academic assistance to students in first through eighth grades. Students attended the program twice each week for three hours from February through May.

The after-school homework and tutorial program is part of the purpose of the TEAMM effort that targets children from first grade to eight to help participants to realize their potential to grow, learn and achieve at high levels. A secondary program mission is to contribute to the children’s personal, social and emotional development and to foster their cognitive development and academic achievement. Program components include the Saturday Academy, the Homework/Tutorial program, Vacation Bible School and the Summer Enrichment Program that focuses on the visual and performing arts.

The students entered the parish hall aglow with tablecloths and table appointments. Students sat with their teacher/tutors according to their grades. The best part of the program then began when students were treated to a pizza party. Several teachers from the Tacoma Educational Center and a few parents joined the celebration.

Father John Harmon offered a prayer of thanksgiving. An essay contest was organized and judged by a panel including Mabra Barge, Della Burke and Raymond Blanks. The winners: seventh grader Angel Lee (first place), fifth grader Davon Lamont Williams (second place) and seventh grader Bei Yudom (third place) shared their essays on the topic, “How to Succeed in the Future.” Cash awards of \$25, \$15 and \$10 respectively were given to the three contest winners. (Essays of the

first and second place essay contest winners follow at the end of this article.)

A special highlight of the closing ceremony was a brief address by Dr. Vincent Adams, Trinity's senior warden. Adams, like a country parson, told the students of Trinity's commitment to their best development. He also indicated that the church was not only interested in their academic achievement but also as a place to discover God's love. He added that the students should consider Trinity their religious home if they had no church. Applause rang in appreciation for the senior warden's address. All students received a certificate of achievement at the conclusion of the ceremony.

A rousing applause and an ovation was given to Dr. Shelia G. Handy, following her closing remarks as the TEAMM Program Director. Volunteer instructors included: Joyce Murray, Betty Evans, Olive Franklin, Caroline Edwards, Omega Millen, Hester Adams, Raymond Blanks, Thomasa Burton, Myrtle Thompson, Della Burke, Mabra Barge and James Brown.

#### How to Succeed in the Future (First Place)

The first thing you should do to succeed in the future is go to school, pay attention, get good grades and listen. Last but not least, do what you have to do. There is no reason why you should not be able to get good grades. If you don't pay bills and if you don't do chores, there are a lot of reasons on how to succeed in the future. After you do all of these things in elementary school, you move on to middle school. It is a little different but in order to succeed in middle school, high school and college, you still have to do the same work. You should always listen and never disrespect your parents or elders. Don't be rude and always follow the rules. Don't do anything that is going to mess up your life. The number one thing not to do is to smoke. Smoking can seriously mess up your life. Smoking is not going to do anything for you but kill you. Smoking will also leave you alone because many

people may not want to hang around you. The next thing and the last thing is don't run off and get drunk and have some kids. That will really mess up your life. If you do the right things and don't sway the way the wind blows, you can do well in life and forever.

School is basically going to prepare you for the future. If you do what you have to do, you will never get in trouble. The main thing not to do is to follow others, lie, disrespect, cheat or disobey. Just do the right things and you will succeed in the future.

Angel Lee (7<sup>th</sup> grade)

#### How to Succeed in the Future (Second Place)

Hello, my name is Davon Lamont Williams. I am going to talk about how I'm going to succeed in the future. I am going to stay focused on my education. I like education because you get to go to college so that you can secure a good job. When you do not complete your homework, you get a bad grade and that grade goes on your report card. When you do your homework, you get a good grade. If you get all bad grades, you stay back in school and fail that grade and you should not do that. Getting bad grades will prevent you from getting into a good college. If you don't go to college you won't get the best jobs, and it will be so sad. Let's say that you wanted to grow up and be a basketball player. If you have a good report card, they might put you on the basketball team. The school wouldn't put you on the team just because you are a good player and so called perfect. They will just say, "so what if he or she is good." That's why you should do your work and get good grades. Getting a good education is very important for your future. This is Davon speaking and I hope you too get good grades.

Davon Lamont Williams (5<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Congratulations to Trinity's 2005 Graduates**

**Amlyv Harvey**

**Malcolm Hendricks**

**Courtney Moore**



**Juele Lawrence**

**Augustine Sanders**

**Darius Weaver**

If we have missed a graduate, please contact The Trinitarian and we will include the name(s) in the fall issue.

The Reverend Canon John T.W. Harmon, *Rector*  
 The Reverend Canon Earl Neil, *Assistant*  
 Brooks Handley, *Seminarian*  
 Donyelle McCray, *Seminarian*  
 Priscilla Gay, *Parish Secretary*  
 Robert Belt, *Sexton*  
 George Clinton, *Warden, Tower*  
 Lee-Folia Brunt, *Choir Director*  
 Victor Phillips, *Organist/Assistant Choir Director*  
 Isaac Marks, *Treasurer*  
 Cora Dixon, *Assistant Treasurer*  
 Marshall Ford, *Assistant Treasurer*

**Vestry**

Vincent Adams, *Senior Warden*  
 Mary Johnson, *Junior Warden*  
 Orlando Anderson    Marshall Ford  
 Kevin Berthoud        Darryl Harrison  
 James Brown            Barbara Jarvis  
 Carol Crecy                Chiemeka Opaigbeogu  
 Cora Dixon                Ulonda Shamwell

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