

The Citadel – January 2008

News from Trinity Episcopal Church

Easton, Pennsylvania

“Discovering, Sharing, Living God’s Love”

The Rt. Rev. Paul V. Marshall, Bishop of Bethlehem

The Rev. Andrew T. Gerns, Rector

The Rev. Andrea Baldyga, Priest Associate

John C. Gumpy, Director of Music – Sr. Patricia Michael, Administrator

parish@trinityeaston.org - 610-253-0792 - www.trinityeaston.org

3n1-1n3

Coming from the East...

Going home another way

We tend to think of the three who visited Jesus as Kings. Listen to the carol, “We Three Kings.” The Song says “kings” and the song says “three,” right? Or maybe they are Wise Men or Scholars? The NRSV Bible says they are Scholars, learned people. Looking at the crèche again, there is a kind of wise, scholarliness about them, isn’t there?

The visitors were called Magi and they weren’t Kings at all! The Magi were in fact astrologers. Scholars of a sort, to be sure, but they were star-gazers who looked for signs and signals from heaven! They interpreted dreams and divined signs from nature. The Magi were nothing more than astrologers and fortune-tellers!

Now if that makes you think about women dressed in faux-gypsy garb in curtained storefronts looking into crystal balls and dealing cards, then you are in good company. This is not far from what 1st Century Jews thought about these Magi. Jews (and early Christians) did not like people who looked to the stars for signs. They were considered charlatans and fakes at best and idolaters at worst. In the Book of Acts, Paul is shown at times to be in conflict with “magi” who do “magic.”

So, why in Matthew, the most Jewish of all Gospel-communities, are these Gentile astrologers and “fortune-tellers” the first to see Jesus as the Messiah-King? Part of the answer is in the pun. From which way did they come? They came from the east. And, after seeing Jesus, which way did they go? They went home by *another way*.

Continued on page 3...

Epiphany Celebrations at Trinity

A Family Pot Luck Feast will be held in Conine hall immediately following the 10:30 service on January 6. There are sign up sheets on the mission tables for you to tell us what you will bring and how many are coming. (**Deserts are being provided**) Come join us for food, fellowship and fun!



But wait! There’s more...



Celebración de la Epifanía en Easton

¡Venga a celebrar la fiesta de la Epifanía con nosotros! Celebración de la Santa Misa con música. Lugar: Trinity Episcopal Church 234 de la calle Spring Garden en Easton. La celebración será llevada a cabo en la capilla de Santa Maria la Virgen. Fecha: Domingo 6 de Enero a las 5 pm. Tendremos comida y celebración de hermandad inmediatamente después de la Misa, en el Conine Hall.

Cualquier persona interesada en el Ministerio Episcopal Latino/Hispano en el Lehigh Valley,

debe asistir a este servicio.

Para mas información favor de llamar al Padre Andrew Gerns (Trinity Episcopal Church) al 610-253-0792 o comuníquese con Marie Lisby al 484-695-4386.

Epiphany Celebration in Spanish in Easton

Come celebrate Epiphany with us! Holy Eucharist (La Santa Misa) with music at Trinity Episcopal Church, 234 Spring Garden Street, Easton (Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin), Sunday, January 6th at 5 p.m. Dinner and fellowship to follow in Conine Hall immediately following. *Anyone interested in Episcopal Hispanic/Latino ministry in the Lehigh Valley should come to this service!* Contact: Fr. Andrew Gerns, Trinity Episcopal Church, Easton 610-253-0792 or Marie Lisby, 484 695-4386

Please note: This “PDF” Version of the Citadel contains additional material from the “Print” version” that was mailed out!

For Calendar click [here](#).

The following appeared in Wednesday's Express Times (12/26/07)

Spirit of holiday wafts through air at Jacob's Dinner

BY Michael Buck of The Express-Times

EASTON | The parish center at St. Michael's Catholic Church was filled Tuesday with the smell of Christmas dinner — and the clamor of the people who come to eat it.

John Preziosi, who lives at the Hotel Hampton in Easton, said he enjoys the cheerfulness of everyone at the dinner, and he is treated well there. Preziosi said he also came to the dinner last year.

Preziosi, a New Jersey native, said he has a brother in Easton but didn't plan on spending any time with him today, but he didn't say why. "Family is pretty much far away," said Preziosi, while he pulled the skin off baked chicken and munched on stuffing. The meal, called Jacob's Dinner, was sponsored by Trinity Episcopal Church. David Bonner, who was organizing the dinner, said the name of the dinner comes from the Book of Genesis when angels came to Jacob.



"It's for anybody and you don't need a reservation, because Christ didn't have a reservation," Bonner said. Bonner said this is the fourth year the church has organized the dinner, and there was enough food for 130 meals. He said last year more than 100 meals were served. Bonner said he hoped there would be enough food for everybody to eat their fill and so he could take leftovers to the Hotel Lafayette and Hotel Hampton for those who did not come to the meal.

The fare, which included chicken, sweet potatoes and stuffing, was purchased and prepared at Wegmans, Bonner said. The dessert, ice cream sundaes, was courtesy of the Purple Cow Creamery. Bonner said the meal is served at St. Michael's because the facilities there are better for a large-scale dinner.

The Rev. Andrea Baldyga of Trinity Episcopal Church said people are usually good about donating food during the holidays but urges people to remember charities and food

pantries the rest of the year. "If it weren't for this, some of these people wouldn't have had a meal," she said. "We try to make sure there is food at one church every day."

Wayne Sherrer made a Postulant for Holy Orders

News from the Chaplain

Many members of Trinity are aware that, in response to God's call, in 2005 I submitted an application to the Diocese to be ordained a priest. That application was accompanied by the recommendations of the rector and the vestry of Trinity. What exactly is happening in my ordination process? Inquiring minds may want to know. Last Saturday December 8th the Commission on Ministry for the Diocese of Bethlehem recommended that the bishop admit me as a postulant for the Diaconate. The bishop acted on their recommendation and I received official notice from the bishop on December 13th that I am now a postulant. This action by the wider church is an acknowledgement of my call and a commitment by the Church to help me prepare for the ministry to which God is calling me.

Part of my preparation for ordination is the completion of the Clinical Pastoral Education program at St. Luke's Hospital in Fountain Hill, which I began in September. For those unfamiliar with the program, I average about twenty hours per week at the hospital. Part of that time is spent in visitation with patients and/or family members on a floor assigned to me. Twice a month I am the on-call chaplain for the entire hospital. During that time my responsibilities include responding to all deaths, all codes and all trauma arrivals. Each week I and the other chaplain interns meet as a group for formal instruction and for shared analysis and reflection upon our experiences as pastoral caregivers. We also have individual sessions with the program supervisor to increase the effectiveness of our ministry. My time at St. Luke's has been deeply rewarding and I look forward to the next four and a half months until graduation on May 1st.

I thank the members of Trinity for their prayers and their encouragement as I continue my journey of preparation for God's call to me.

Wayne Sherrer

From the Stewardship Commission...

A recent Joyful Noiseletter cartoon shows a weary shopper at a bookstore counter asking for "a spiritual book that's sympathetic to those who spend a lot of time in the mall". Now that the holidays are over, how many of us are vowing to spend both less time and money in those or other shopping areas? As the new year begins, how many of us are taking a serious look at where our disposable income goes, and what satisfaction its use provides us? When (if?) we prepare our new year's budget, where do our thanks giving offerings to God fall? Are they right there at the top with our essentials, or are they in the "well

I guess I can give some to God this month” category? Remember, we are always “essential”, never “disposable” to God. Does our category for offerings and the way we live our lives reflect and respond to the love and longing for relationship He continually offers us?

Going home another way (Continued from page 1)

The Magi saw an astrological event—not a star hanging in place but the right alignment of planets in the constellation Aries—that told them that a great king was born.

So they hurried to Judea, and checked in with the local royalty, Herod. Where else would a king be born but in a palace to a royal family in a royal city? Logical but wrong. And their news upset Herod, so he confided with his Bible scholars and they tell him that the Messiah is supposed to be born in Bethlehem, an out-of-the-way city. So Herod says, go and find him and then come back and tell me.

The Magi do find Jesus, and they do offer praise and gifts. But they are people who listen to their dreams and they go home by *another way*.

These strange dreamers, these foreigners, who looked for signs in the stars and the sky, came from the East. They see Jesus and are changed. They go home *another way*. Here’s the pun: In the book of Acts, Christians are called followers of “The Way.” The magi come from one direction and the way they go home is “The Way” they go home.

The Magi model conversion. They see signs and pay attention to them. They follow their signs and come to people who know scripture; they are pointed in the right direction. They find Jesus and worship him. Having worshipped him, they change direction. This is important in Matthew. If God can change these people, God can change anyone! Even us!

When they started out, the Magi looked for God in “magic.” How do people look for God today? How do people seek meaning, hope, purpose, or pursue happiness today? To what do people turn to? What signs do they seek? The point is that we know them all. Maybe we don’t follow stars in the sky, but we look for the same things in all kinds of places. The story of the Magi is important because we are the modern day Magi, seeing signs, asking questions and looking for the King.

There are people doing what the Magi did long ago all around us today! Everyday, there are people we know who in some way come to us asking “We have seen his star, point the way, so we can worship him, too!”

The bumper sticker says “wise men still seek him.” Well, all kinds of people are magi desperately seeking a sign. And they come from the east—or out of the woodwork. They come from homes like ours, and they work beside us and go to school with us, and come to our soup kitchen and AA meetings and we are next to them in the grocery line. Maybe they are wise, or silly, or scared, or indifferent,

or lost, or hopeful, or lonely, or smug. The point is that there are still magi looking for signs of the infant king.

We know where they come from, because we are magi, too—and maybe still are. We’ve been there, done that. The difference is that we’ve met Jesus in baptism, and community, and sacrament, and service and we’ve worshipped him with our own gifts.

I believe the Gospel teaches us that we must listen to the culture around us and look for the signs people follow in their search for God. I believe that God is trying to get their attention. Now we have to do the same.

We are the ones God gives others to be pointed in the right direction. We are the ones who point towards the hope and power of God in Christ. We are the ones who show off the infant Messiah, the living Christ to people through what we do and how we are. Our caring, our clarity of faith, our honesty with our questions, our day to day respect and compassion, our willingness to change and grow point people to the infant King. Our faithful presence is like a star that points to Christ in the humble places.

When we invite people who are seeking Christ into our community of changing magi, then we will help others on their journey, *and* we will grow and change in our own.

Where do Magi come from? What do they follow? They follow the signs God set before them. Who will listen and point them towards Jesus? And when they meet the Christ, how will they go home? If they have met the Christ, they’ll go a new way—on The Way—changed.!

Fr. Andrew+



News from the Nursery

Nursery is Coming!!

The anticipated opening for the nursery is set for **January 13th**. Trained volunteers (parents and non-parents) will watch your child(ren) while you attend Sunday service. Hours will be 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. The nursery is a safe, friendly environment with toys, books, and caring people. It is a place for your child to meet new friends, play, and retreat to during a restless time.

We are in need of books and nursery quality, useable, washable toys. (However, please don’t be offended if we are particular about the toys received. Due to the recent toy recalls, we need to be extra cautious when it comes to the care of our children.) Food will not be served due to too many allergies. If you need to nurse or feed your child feel free to stop in and give your child the nourishment s/he needs. Also, please pack a diaper bag for your child.

If you would like to be a volunteer, please contact Julia Burns at 610-438-1528 or jkbanks71@yahoo.com or contact the parish office 61—253-0792 (parish@trinityeaston.org). Volunteers will attend a training session with Father Andy and be on a rotation basis during 10:30 am service.

Celebration Rescheduled

The celebration of Holy Eucharist and reaffirmation of Fr. Andrew Gerns' 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood that was scheduled for December 16th had to be postponed due to icy weather. The celebration has been rescheduled for **Sunday, January 27 at 5:00 pm.** There will be a reception in Conine Hall following the service.

A note from Mother Donna

Dear Friends,

Just a note to say I think of you often, and I miss you all dearly.

I am enjoying my new life in New England, and the challenges of my dear parish, St. George's.

I have been a regular at Tanglewood and I sing in one of the many choruses here.

I wish you all a blessed and joyous Christmas.

Love & Peace,
Donna Trebilcox



EPIPHANY: THE WISE MEN /
TAKING DOWN THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, **January 20** after the 10:30 service. *(Please note this date has changed due to the celebration of Fr. Andy's 25th Anniversary which has been scheduled for Jan. 27!)*

We will serve brunch and hear news of the parish's ministry this past year, our plans for the year upcoming and review the finances from 2007 as well as the 2008 budget. Eligible voters are those 18 years of age and who are confirmed adult communicants in good standing. The meeting is open to all.



Please have all committee reports to the parish office no later than Monday, January 15th!

Posting Period: 12/23/07

Financial Summary Year to Date:

Revenues	
Offerings	\$198,951.29
Rent	\$ 13,964.00
Interest & Investment	\$104,795.92
Special Events	\$ 1,451.65
Church Store	\$ 4,802.08
Other Income	\$ 604.00
Total Revenues	\$324,604.94
Expenses	
Outreach	\$ 40,931.01
Total Staff Expenses	\$203,435.96
Total Other Operating Expenses	\$ 76,803.74
Total Expenses	\$321,197.71
Net Total	\$ 3,407.23
Total Other Expenses	\$ 6,232.34
Net Operating Total	(\$ 2,825.11)

Acolyte Training!

There will be a training session for all acolytes on Saturday, January 5 at 12:00 p.m. If you are currently an acolyte or would like to see what being an acolyte is about, please join us—youth and adults are needed and welcome! Lunch will be provided.



Acolytes

Trinity Requiem Services

We will remember at our Wednesday Requiem service this month:

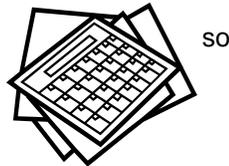
Frank D. Piperato, Sr., Sylvia Benkert, August C. Sherrer
Joan Rumfield, Jack Paini, Catherine VanSyckle
Bruce D. Richardson, Mary Kohler, Nancy L. Kressler
Charles E. Langner, Donald B. Nixon, Royal Burpee, Sr.

Requiem services are held the first Wednesday of the month at 12:10 p.m. in the Chapel. Our next requiem service will be January 2. We invite loved ones of those who have gone before us to remember and give thanks for their lives.

Never Assume!

A note about the Parish Calendar...

If you have a meeting to schedule, please call or email the parish office that you can be sure that a room is available and there is no conflict with the date.



"If it's not on the parish calendar—it just isn't happening!"

Blood Donor Report Update

Miller-Keystone Blood Center

Group's annual donation goal:	34
# Donations as of 10/31/07:	26
# Donations for month:	4
# Donations YTD:	30
# Donations to reach goal:	4

Donations for the Month Ending 11/30/07:
Elizabeth Burke, Alexander Gangaware, Allen Gangaware and Wayne Sherrer.

Diocesan Youth to raise \$7,000!

New Hope Youth

The diocesan youth council has decided to give its full support to the New Hope Campaign, with a program we are calling New Hope Youth.

Between now and June, the youth council intends to raise \$7,000 to donate to the New Hope Campaign. They are calling on all of the youth of the diocese to strive toward making a \$50 donation by June.

Members of the youth council will be calling you to ask you for the name and phone number of a youth (someone in 6-12 grade) in your parish who would help promote the New Hope youth program amongst their peers.

We realize that some parishes do not have teenagers in attendance. In that case, you will be asked if your parish will please pray for the New Hope Youth goal of raising \$7,000 by June. If you have any questions, please email Demery Bader-Saye at dbader-saye@diobeth.org.

A valuable Trinity Ministry

Be an "Ark Angel!"

The Ark Soup Kitchen has been feeding the hungry for nearly fourteen years and it is a major outreach of this parish. We typically serve 65-80 meals each Saturday at noon in Conine Hall.

We are desperately in need of Trinity members who can serve once a month as a team leader--opening and closing Conine Hall, assisting the many local church and community groups who cook and serve the meals, and being our parish "presence" in this important ministry. Currently we have three teams and one of those teams is down to one person. We like to have at least two people from the parish at every meal. Call Jan Charney or the parish office if you are interested.

Sitgreaves Coffee House

Are you looking for something to do to beat the winter doldrums? Try an evening of music and fun at Sitgreaves Coffee House!

Live acoustic music and refreshments in a family-friendly environment.

Second Sundays from 6 - 9 pm in Conine Hall

(Next session: January 9)



Invite your friends!

Ark Soup Kitchen Christmas Meal

150 Meals Served and Gifts Given!

Thanks to all who assisted in this year's Ark Soup Kitchen Christmas Meal. They served a meal over 150 people at St. Michael's.

And a special thank you to all the Trinity members who baked hams, provided side dishes, rolls and desserts, as well as the many servers. St. Nicholas visited Conine Hall where he distributed nearly 150 Christmas gifts. Again, we thank the folks from Trinity who gave wrapped gifts through the Angel Tree this year.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH – Christmas 2007

The following are given to the Glory of God:

The large **outdoor Crèche** has been given in Loving Memory of **THE REV. FREDERICK S. CONINE AND MEMBERS OF THE CONINE FAMILY.**



The **indoor crèche** has been given in Loving Memory of **NANCY L. KRESSLER and SYLVIA LUTZ.**

The **Communion Wine** for the year is given in Loving Memory of **ROBERT JAMES AND DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE ROBERT JAMES FAMILY.**

The **Christmas trees at the altar** are given in Loving Memory of **WILLIAM FRENCH JONES; MR. & MRS. HENRY BROWN MOREHOUSE, MR. HENRY BROWN MOREHOUSE, JR; MISS HELEN BEATRICE MOREHOUSE, MASTER TIMOTHY MOREHOUSE KETCHUM, and MRS. FREDERICK H. JONES.**

The **Christmas wreath under the Rose window** is given in Loving Memory of **DAVID PAUL KELLER.**

The **Memorial Garden Wreath** is given in Loving Memory of **WILLIAM & ELIZABETH HORVATH and MARGARET LOCKARD.**

The **Sanctuary Lamp** in the chapel burns in Memory of **MARY GRACE & DONALD MCCRAY and DWIGHT MCCRAY.**

The **Candles and Candle Oil** are given in Loving Memory of **JOAN C. RUMFIELD.**

The **Book of the Gospels** is given in Loving Memory of **CONSTANCE CRIVELLARO.**

The **Christmas and Epiphany decorations** are given to the glory of God and in Loving Memory of those from the parish:

... who have died during this past year:

(* Indicates interred in the Memorial Garden)

Elsie Kline	*Nevin James Seip	James H. H. Kenyon
*Frank D. Piperato, Sr.	*Orvetta C. Curnow	C. Burroughs Gill
*Mary A. Butler Green	Benita L. Collins	*Mary S. Yocum
*Patricia Murphy Pearl	Doris B. Stem	Reginald B. Gerhardt, Jr.
Serafina Maiorana	Irene McCliment	
*Sarah K. Early	Constance Crivellaro	

... who are interred in the Memorial Garden:

Rickey Acker	Frank J. Cascio	Elizabeth M. Fabregas	Marion L. Hedden
Robley W. Adams	Charles Chipman, Jr.	Donald E. Fahr	George M. Henderson
Anita Mae Anderson	Joseph P. Corona, Sr.	Willis Fleck	Marion C. Hodge
Hilda M. Aschoff	Florence May Curnow	Dimoretta W. Flint	Robert Wesley Hughes
Frederick A. Avila	Orvetta C. Curnow	George J. Flint, Jr.	Arthur D. Hunter
Clifford E. Bailey	William C. Curnow, Jr.	Frank Gerken	Robert James
Charles P. Barnett, M.D.	Ida Rosina Deringer	Jane B. Gerken	Betty Erb Jones
Jean Betty Baumann	Trevor A. Diehl	Mary A. Butler Green	Elsa E. Jones
Fred Baumann	Anna A. Gill Doremus	James Grieve	Robert Randolph Jones
Margaret Bond	Sarah K. Early	June E. Grube	Walter A. Jones
Robert Dean Bowyer	Tommy D. Edwards	Kenneth R. Hartman	John C. Kapke
James Lannier Bright	Heikki K. Elo	Edward H. Hasbrouck, Sr.	James Walter Kay
David M. Brown	Bernard E. Fabregas, Jr.	Mildred A. Hasbrouck	Charles Frederick Kloepper

The Citadel – January 2008

Kenneth T. Kuper	Mary Frances Moser	Frank D. Piperato, Sr.	Nancy Maiorana Stanley
John Milton Lanyon, Sr.	Barbara Knight Murphy	Angelina B. Potts	Stephen Louis Stine
Daniel O. Lichtenwalner	Joseph T. Murphy	Donald Potts	Fredi W. Straussfogel
Irene I. Lichtenwalner	Gertrude Charlotte Page	David A. Reed	Grace Emmons Taylor
Constance C. Logothetis	Maybelle A. Pascal	Charles R. Rudtner, Sr.	Grace E. Trimble
Frank P. McCluskey	Dr. Samuel Pascal	Harrison T. Sales	Roger David Trommelen
Mary Grace McCray	Patricia Murphy Pearl	Nevin James Seip	Mary Anne (Unger) Turner
Frances L. McKee	Charles Robert Pettit	Richard I. Shaneberger	Harlan L. Tuthill
Violet W. Meade	The Rev.	Elsie Silfies	Isabelle F. Watson
Emily W. Mendillo	David C. Pettit	Elizabeth S. Slager	Clair E. Williams
Margaret Metcalf	Margaret Ellis Pettit		Dorothy Gladys Williams
David Middleton	William K. Pierce	Theodore Slager, Jr.	James E. Williams
Henry Maxwell Miller	Caroline P. Pfretzschner	Robert W. Speirs	Michele S. Wilson
May Ashmead Miller	Paul A. Pfretzschner	Louis T. Stableford	Mary S. Yocum
Berenice Brown Moore	Lillian Pihlblad	Nancy A. Stableford	

... who are family and friends remembered by parishioners:

Charles P. Barnett	The Scarpino family	Frederick Avila
Beloved relatives & friends of Erma Hughes	The Cuono family	Michele Wilson
Ann Coleen Smith	The D'Angelo family	Robert Speirs
Armand Traino	William Curnow, Jr.	Stephen Speirs
Those who have died in the Meneeley family	Orvetta Curnow	Eleanor Fitzpatrick
the Klingerman family	William Curnow, Sr.	Kenneth T. Kuper
the Traino family	Florence Curnow	Harry E. & Lillian B. Sudders
the Genovese family	Harry Price	All God's Animal Creatures
Chirs, Anna & George Masouras	Iva Price	Dunfee's Pets
Henry D. Maxwell, Jr.	Judith Curnow	Clifford W. Tucker
Emily B. Maxwell	Joseph P. Corona, Sr.	Anna & Addison Tucker
Henry Maxwell Miller	Kenneth & Mary Kohler	Helen & Wilbur Klusmeyer
Donald DeBacco	Clara Satre	Emma Huff
Kathy Herrick	Family & friends of the Charneys	Rhinard Del Parry, MD
Family & loved ones of the Kloepfer's	David Evans	Virginia King Parry
James & Benita Collins	Shirley Clark	James H. H. Kenyon, Sr.
Alfred & Gertrude Willever	Family & friends of Regina & Ed Creitz	The Rev. William H. Gerns, Jr., Deacon
Richard Willever	Loved ones of Alma Elo	Francis Hand Gerns
Christmas blessings for family & friends of the Motsek family	Harry & Reta VanEmburg	Meyers & Mary Hand
Elizabeth Sardegna	Loved ones of the Morrison Cahill & Ghignone families	Hermann & Evelyn Wilson
Family & loved ones of Leon & Ada Mae Sardegna	Joan C. Rumfield	William H. Gerns, Sr.
Gus Sherrer	Ida & Elmer Rumfield	Nancy Kathleen Wood
Howard W. Swick	Maribeth N. Serfass	Allen Hunt Wood
Lillian & William Swick	Family & friends of Anne Thornton	Lily G. Wood
Elizabeth & James Dougherty	Shirley B. Noble	Louis C. Wood
William & Mary Curtis	Doris Young	Maugarette G. Carnes
George & Elsie Vaill	Charles, Clara & Robert Riehl	Francis S. Carnes
Woronowicz & Sandt families	Marie Good	Malcom Carnes
Sandt & Ferrante families	Edwin James	John Treadwell
	Charles Merlo	
	Priscilla Stocker	



The Citadel

Trinity Episcopal Church
234 Spring Garden Street
Easton, PA 18042

Time Sensitive Material. Please do not delay!

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH: United Thank Offering *Ingathering on January 27th!*



We can't be sure that Trinity has supported the UTO since its inception way back in 1889 (its first project was funding a woman missionary to Japan), but we can point to support for at least 50 years of Blue Box use in this parish. At first, UTO was an offering opportunity for the women of the Episcopal Church, but in 1967 became a "family" project; that's why we encourage all of our parish family members to take a Blue Box (new ones will be available on the 27th), keep it in a visible place, and add coins to it in thanksgiving for the multitude of blessings that are ours from day to day. The mission of UTO is to continually expand the circle of thankful people. To achieve this mission, they encourage daily prayers, offerings, and ever-increasing awareness of the abundance of God's blessings. In 2007, UTO made grants of nearly \$2.5 million to 104 grantees...and our offerings were part of that giving. While being happy about that result, we need to remember that there were nearly twice that number of grant applications, and that all 2007 requests totaled some \$8 million. Every penny of our offerings goes to grants, so let's see if we can't help the UTO folks provide in 2008 even more blessings and fewer disappointments to those who apply for funding for their worthy projects.

Because of some scheduling conflicts, although January will remain as UTO month, diocesan coordinator Cathy Bailey will be here at Trinity to speak to the 9:15 AM Forum on February 3; please come to hear her story. Mission Outreach urges you to use the envelope with this Citadel, either to convert your coins to bills or a check, or to make a contribution even if you have not regularly used the Blue Box. Thanks!

Please use the envelope enclosed in this months Citadel or look for envelopes on the Mission Tables at Trinity.