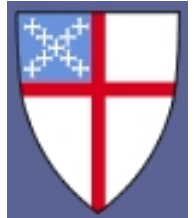


Winter 2008

We are a community of Christian people seeking to love God with all of our hearts, souls, minds, and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves.



The Chimes of Trinity Church



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT TRINITY CHURCH

Sunday, December 7 - The Second Sunday of Advent The Service of Lessons and Carols will take place at the 10 a.m. service. This annual traditional service reminds us of the God who lived among us as Emmanuel.

Saturday, December 13 - Advent Quiet Morning From 8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., you are invited to a Quiet Morning of meditation, prayer, silence and reflection as part of your Advent devotions, facilitated by Rev. Mary McCullough here at Trinity Church. Light lunch will be included. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Sunday, December 14 - The Third Sunday of Advent Theologian in Residence Matthew Works will preach at the 8, 10 and 4 p.m. services. Featured in chapter 21 of Jim Wallis' book, *God's Politics*, Matthew is homeless, and an eloquent speaker of the ways of Jesus and his most remembered saints.

The 5 p.m. service will be at 4 p.m. in order to accommodate the caroling party.

Sunday, December 21 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent The annual Christmas Pageant will take place at the 10 a.m. service. This year's Pageant is Christmas with St. Francis, written by Trinity members Darrel Walters and Eleanor Sypher. This intergenerational pageant will be directed and acted by members of Trinity and the choir.

Sunday, December 21 - The Trinity Choir Christmas Concert The annual Trinity Choir Christmas concert will be held at 3 p.m. in the church. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

Sunday, December 21 - The Longest Night Service This service acknowledges that even in the "most wonderful time of the year", for some it is a time of loss, grief and pain. Everyone is welcome, and the service includes communion. 5 p.m. in the Holy Cross Chapel.

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Services

4:00 p.m. - Children's Service.

10:30 p.m. - Choral Prelude and Festival Eucharist.

Thursday, December 25 - Christmas Day Feast of the Nativity

10:00 a.m. in the Church, featuring Ernest Wells on the organ.



FAITH AND FINANCES

Dear Friends:

The worldwide economy is a mess! Seems like every time we think the market has bottomed out another day passes and the market hits a new low. The economy has taken the place of the weather in small talk.

The truth is that many people have been hit hard by the economic crisis. Many have and are losing their homes. Unemployment is growing, retirement accounts and other investments are less than half of what they once were.

We can spend less and save more but the truth is that most of this mess is out of our control. I think at times like this, we do well to learn from our sisters and brothers in 12 step programs. Particularly by praying the Serenity Prayer:

*God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change
The courage to change the things that I can
And the wisdom to know the difference.
AMEN.*

Over 21 years ago, it wasn't finances, that left Anne and I feeling anxious and worried and out of control. Then it was a seizure disorder that threatened the life of our infant daughter. I demanded that God heal our daughter but as that prayer crossed my lips, I knew that God had to do no such thing. I knew I had to do was trust God with Lizzi's life, no matter what the outcome. In handing Lizzi over to God I was flooded with peace that passes understanding.

When the worry and anxiety crept back in I would remember the words of Psalm 46.

*God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the
depths of the sea;
Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.*

I don't know what the economy will look like in a year from now but I know that I know that, as St. Paul wrote to the Romans: *God works all things for the good. ALL THINGS.*

*Fondly,
Fr. Dave*



BLUE FOR ADVENT

You may have noticed something new this year at Trinity, the blue color of hangings and vestments for Advent. Blue is a color that is associated with the Virgin Mary. It is also a symbol of expectation and hope, the blue of a new day. The cross on the various hangings has a pink rose in the center which is also a symbol of Mary. On the back of the Chasuble is the vine of grapes and sheaf of wheat, symbols of Communion.

The Chasuble and Stole worn by Fr. Dave were given in memory of Thomas Flint by Harriet Flint and Evelyn Carpenter. The Burse and the Veil which cover the chalice were given in memory of Dwight and Janet Dundore by the Hayes family. The Altar and Pulpit hangings were given in memory of Peter Bayard by the Bayard family.



All these items were blessed in August when family members could be present. Please enjoy the beauty of these items as you celebrate this season of Advent!

ROOTS OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

“You’re slackin’ Mom” voiced my teenage son several years ago when he pointed out that I had not prepared the traditional Advent wreath for our dinner table as the season began. In the midst of the busyness of everyday life, I had overlooked the importance of this traditional ritual our family has shared since our children were very young. My son’s remark helped me to realize the spiritual significance of the symbolic gesture of lighting the Advent wreath every night at dinner that had taken root in my children.

The foundational roots of spiritual formation take hold in the context of family life. Religious education begins at home. In a book entitled *Family – The Forming Center*, Marjorie Thompson points out that values and a vision of faith are communicated in two primary ways. One has to do with the natural occasions that involve the relational structure of life; the other is those intentional practices that we carry out to support the spiritual potential within the family.



What are some of those natural opportunities within our family lives that are occasions for exhibiting the Christian values we espouse?

Being intentionally present to each other.

Acceptance of each family member as a precious and beloved child of God even when choices made conflict with our own ideals, values and beliefs.

Recognizing and affirming the giftedness we see in one another.

Accountability to one another and ability to confront each other in love when conduct and attitudes may be harmful.

Forgiving and reconciling with one another is a sign of the vitality of God’s Spirit within family life.

What are some intentional practices we can devote ourselves to in order to recognize God’s abundant grace?

Prayer – conversational prayer, table grace, body prayer (holding hands, linking arms, raising palms), breath prayers (repetition of a short prayer phrase), and bedtime prayers. Through prayer we participate in that special bonding power that goes deeper than routine communication.

Family worship – family rituals (like the Advent wreath) that nurture the deepest part of us and allow for an offering to God in a concrete and physical way. Seasons of the church year provide opportunity to claim holy days in a special way.

Storytelling – There are family history stories, there are our own personal family stories, and there are biblical stories. All stories provide continuity and valuable insight into God’s love in our lives. Reading from a good paraphrase of scripture for bedtime stories assists in making those stories our own.

Stewardship – Attentiveness to our attitudes and treatment of the resources which God has entrusted to us can become a family intention and thus contribute to awareness of the precious gifts of life.

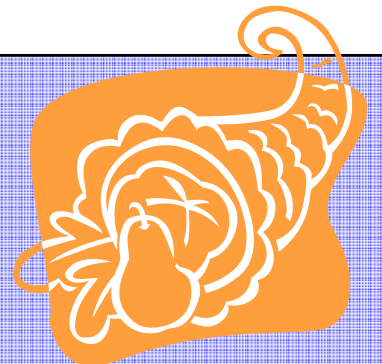
Outreach – Families intentionally participating in the social mission of the church reminds that we are intrinsically connected to a wider world.

Spiritual formation is at its best when we are intentional in our efforts to reflect God’s love through natural opportunities in family life. We have the opportunity to create new ways to grow in faith through routine intentional disciplines. And if we slip up, don’t be surprised if someone lets you know when we’re “slackin”.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Mary McCullough

AID FOR FRIENDS

As a portion of Trinity’s outreach program, the crews of Real Men Cook have been making dinners and soups for our less fortunate families and shut-ins. This year we delivered 250 dinners and 448 soups. Since 2006 we have delivered 887 dinners and 1236 soups. The folks at Aid for Friends said, “God bless you”, and we say thanks for a job well done. To join this merry group of frustrated chefs, contact Roger Clarke or Bill Davis.



A CHAT WITH REV. MARY McCULLOUGH

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives, and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you." – *GENESIS Ch. 12, verse 1.*

This is the scripture passage that inspired our new Associate Rector, Mary McCullough, in her spiritual journey. This journey led Mary from wife, mother and Christian education coordinator to the Seminary. Now her journey has led Mary to our community at Trinity Episcopal Church. The Chimes had an opportunity to chat with Mary about her background and initial experiences at Trinity.



Q: What are your first impressions of Trinity?

A: I see a community full of energy, and there seems to be a strong spiritual connection between the members here. One of the things that I really appreciate is the variety of ways for healing prayer. Overall, I am impressed with the desire of the people to want to serve, and look for ways to carry out the various ministries at Trinity.

Q: What brought you to the Seminary?

A: Really the whole issue of being called to the priesthood was kind of silent for many years. It was there, but it wasn't the prevailing thought in my life. I went to Neumann College in Aston, Pennsylvania and received a Master's Degree in Pastoral Counseling because I felt called to be with people one-on-one, and in small groups, tending to spiritual life. I'd always been desirous of listening to peoples' stories, being that listening presence. But then when I received my degree, I knew there was something more, and I needed to do something about it. So one rainy day I was driving, and the person in front of me was moving very slowly. I said out loud, "let's go! We have to get going!" And then it was like an epiphany. This was the Spirit saying to me, "it's time." When I got home I said to my husband, "I think I need to do this; to go forward with my education at Seminary."

Q: What your experience at Seminary like?

A: I love learning, and I loved being in school. My study at Seminary was not a chore, it was a passion. And I just felt that I could not get enough. Every professor that I had brought a unique dimension: different gifts, different style. So I was able to just embrace all that learning, and really enjoyed it.

Q: Other than the Bible, is there a fiction or non-fiction book which has provided insight or inspiration that you would recommend to others?

A: There are so many books that I love, but I'll share one that has particularly stood out to me. It's called "Jesus: The Teacher Within" by Laurence Freeman, a Benedictine monk. I think the reason that I was so drawn to this book is because he speaks about the importance of self-knowledge, in order to have a deep and close relationship with God. And it's something I really resonate with. So I would recommend his book to someone who was looking to enhance their relationship with God. Because I think that sometimes there is a sense that God is out there; and the more we know ourselves, the more we come to understand how God uniquely works within each of us.

Q: If you could have dinner with a living inspirational figure, who would it be?

A: What comes to mind right away is I'd love to sit down with Barack Obama. I'd love to sit down, one-on-one, where there could be more candidness; and listen to what his thoughts are, his vision for the country. I'd like to hear the real frustrations, and the real challenges he sees at this turning point in our country.

Q: Outside of your ministry with Trinity, what are your interests and passions?

A: Well, I'm an avid Eagles fan. Right now, I'm a devoted, dejected, disturbed, die-hard Eagles fan. But I stick with them through thick and thin. I love to read. And I really love to be with my kids. Just doing whatever it is; the chores of the day, going shopping, doing something together – whatever that may be. I also love going out with my girlfriends. I'm still friends with some of my girlfriends from elementary school, and when we go out that always feeds my soul!

Mary McCullough will be ordained on Saturday, January 10, 2009, at the Cathedral in Philadelphia, 10:00 a.m. The Trinity community is encouraged to attend her Ordination Ceremony, and information regarding car pooling will be available as the date draws nearer.

TRINITY'S YOUTH GROUP



The Youth Group at Trinity has been quite active thus far this Fall. Approximately 15-20 students attend each Sunday night from 6-8pm for fellowship, fun, and worship. We are fortunate to have many fine adult leaders who volunteer weekly to assist in mentoring our youth.

So what have we been up to?:

We have delved into many topics of discussion thus far such as "Who am I", "A Compartmentalized Life", "Who is Jesus", and "When Have I Experienced God". We have tried not only to participate in discussion but also to take the time to get to know one another through games and movies, weekly meals, and informal worship directed by the teens. The Youth Group also went on a social outing to Dave and Busters.

What's coming up?

We look forward to many upcoming events such as Turkey Bowling, Christmas Caroling to the Homebound, preparing the ECS Christmas Angel Tree and planning the 2009 Mission Trip to West Virginia! We are excited to get to know a homeless man named Matthew who will be visiting our church throughout December and speaking about his life experiences and his relationship with Jesus Christ. Additionally, we will be learning about the twelve disciples in the coming months and devoting a week each month to serve our community.

We continue to pray that our group will grow in faith, friendship, and love. All are welcome to attend. If you would like further details on the Youth Group or up to date pictures of our meetings/events please check the church website and the Youth Activities section.

Fare for the Soul:

Come together, joining hands and hearts.

Let our hands be links of a chain which hold our lives together- not a chain of bondage but a silver cord of strength, a ribbon of love and faith and community, giving us slack to sail the wind, yet holding us in a mystical embrace, that we may be alone, but never lonely, that we may be together but never lost in the crowd, that we may be one without forfeiting uniqueness.

Come together, joining hands and hearts, and let the spirit of God and the human spirit flow in each one and through us all as we gather here to share this time and space and as we walk together on the journey.

- John W. Howell

God Bless you, and thanks for continuing to support the young adults of Trinity.

- **Kelly Rupprecht, Youth Minister**

A Message from one of our young adults in Youth Group:

By Garion Beam

At Trinity Church we are fortunate to have a place for teens and "tweens" to hang out, while helping others. In too many cases teens can do nothing but stay home and play video games, because they are too young to get a job, or they don't have many friends. Our youth group meets once a week and does fun activities such as turkey bowling and sardines, after sharing a pizza dinner and much socializing.

As far as helping the community, our youth minister Kelly tries to discreetly get us to work for the church and town (which is not that discrete). However, during the Youth Mission Trips we go to a distant town and serve people who really need our help. In my opinion, service is the greatest gift you can give. Anyone can donate money, but it takes those who care to make a difference.



DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

As Daughters of the King, we are women who have made a commitment to serve God. The mission of the order is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through Prayer, Service and Evangelism. We offer two meeting times. Our morning group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 10 am. Our evening group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7pm. While a small portion of our meetings focus on organizational aspects, our primary focus is Bible Study.



The Anam Cara Chapter of the Daughters of the King continues to serve our parish. Throughout the year we deliver welcome baskets to visiting families. Each welcome basket contains homemade baked goods, a Daily Prayer Booklet, and literature about Trinity Church. The weekend of October 10-12th, our Chapter sponsored our 4th Annual Women's Retreat at St. Marguerite's Retreat House in Mendham, NJ. This year's theme was "Our Relationships in Christ". Our retreat was led by Rev. Maxine Maddox-Dorneman. Over the weekend Rev. Maxine discussed the six sided figure of wellness (spiritual wellness, intellectual wellness, physical wellness, occupational wellness, emotional wellness, social wellness) and how to balance it in our lives. It was a weekend filled with singing, praying, and worshipping together. We are already looking forward to next year's retreat and a Retreat Union which we'll hopefully have early next year.



On October 19th, we had our Installation Service and Renewal of Vows. Our new Officers are LaTanya McLean Barkley (President), Lynda Basham (Vice President), Jan McLemore (Treasurer), and Annette Irvin (Secretary). Ladies, please mark your calendars for a DOK Meet and Greet Brunch on Saturday, January 17th! The brunch will be held at Trinity 10am-12pm. This brunch will be open to all women in our Parish who may be interested in joining the Daughters of the King. We will have a series of open meetings for women in our parish who may be interested in joining our DOK Chapter. We are hoping to start training those interested in March 2009.

This is an exciting time for our Chapter as we look forward to growing our group!

**In God's Love,
LaTanya McLean Barkley**

Confirmation

**"Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop."
(Book of Common Prayer p. 860).**

We will celebrate Confirmation at Trinity Church on Sunday, April 19, 2009. The Right Rev. Rodney Michel, retired Suffragan Bishop of Long Island, will preside.

Approximately fifteen young people have been invited to participate in preparation for Confirmation. Confirmands will choose mentors to work alongside them through the process and will begin weekly preparation on Sunday January 4, 2009. Preparation will include travels through the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, creed creation, exploration of the sacraments, spiritual gifts discernment, ethical decision-making, learning about Episcopal Church government and discovering images of God, Jesus and Holy Spirit. Let us pray for those who will choose to make this mature and public affirmation of their faith.

Any senior high students, who ,for any reason, have not received a letter and would like to be confirmed, should contact Mary McCullough at (215)646-0416 or mary@trinityambler.com.

Adults who would like to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church or would like to reaffirm their commitment to Christ should contact Fr. Dave at (215)646-0416 or Rector@trinityambler.com.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

What do you get for the person who has everything? You know that they don't want or need anything but you still want to remember them at Christmas. Or perhaps you would like to make Christmas gift giving more about giving to people in need, bringing hope to places where there is little reason to hope.

If either of these thoughts are on your mind, here are some suggestions:

FIVE TALENTS INTERNATIONAL *Is a ministry based in the Episcopal Church and wider Anglican Communion. They provide micro loans to women to start small businesses in Africa, India and other places around the world. A small amount of money can lift a whole family and other families out of devastating poverty. They have a great web page that makes giving very easy.*

FiveTalents.org

P. O. Box 331

Vienna, VA 22183

800.760.6355

EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT *Has a gifts-for-life program. There are over 40 gift possibilities including animals and agriculture, basics for life, preventable diseases, disaster relief, economic opportunity and just for kids.*

Er-d.org/gifts for life

800.334.7626 x5129

815 Second Avenue

NY, NY 10017

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL *Has been bringing help, healing and hope to millions of impoverished families worldwide. In its first 60 years they have assisted more than 10 million families. Heifer programs have reinvigorated communities in the areas of livestock and agriculture to develop programs to alleviate hunger and poverty.*

Heifer.org

800.422.0755

P.O. Box 6021

Albert Lea, MN 56007-6621

Here are some other ministries to which you may donate but probably do not have Christmas gifts program. To make it a gift, folks just let their loved ones know that in their honor they gave a certain amount of money to a favorite ministry.

THE OFFICE OF DISASTER RELIEF, THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LOUISIANA

So many years after Katrina and the Diocese of Louisiana is still helping individuals and families dig out from the devastation of that hurricane.

EDOLA.org

On the left side of the home page, click on "Giving". They make it easy to donate online.

504.895.6634

Diocese of Louisiana/Disaster Relief

1623 7th Street

New Orleans, LA 70115

CHESTER EASTSIDE MINISTRIES

A beacon of light to all of Chester, funded by the Presbytery of Philadelphia and other donations, CEM provides food, clothing, GED programs, a community library, after school and year round enrichment programs for children and well a summer long day camp for Chester Children. Our young people have partnered with CEM through our Summer Service Camps and this year we will host out of state Episcopal youth groups that will serve through CEM.

www.chestereastsideministries.org

610.872.4812

420 East 9th Street

P. O. Box 36

Chester, PA 19016

INTERFAITH HOUSING ALLIANCE

Trinity Church supports Inter-faith with a monthly donation from the parish budget. IFHA operates a family homeless shelter through local parishes in which we participate in April. Inter-faith also operates a transitional housing apartment building in Ambler called Hope Gardens. IFHA has moved many families from homelessness to stability and hope.

Stewardship... It's Not (Always) About the Money

We're rapidly approaching the Christmas season, the biggest gift-giving time of the year. Various members of my family have started pressuring me for my "List". I hate making my list and it gets harder and harder each year.

Remember when you were young and there were hundreds of things you could put on your list? Remember when Christmas meant you not only received true gifts, but also things you needed, like socks and pajamas? It's not like that much any more in our family and that's at least part of the reason it's hard to make a list. Things I really need, I've already purchased. And I already have a house full of the things I "wanted" from years past. They're just a little dustier this year.

All of this gets me around to thinking about those folks who aren't as fortunate as I am and who do have true needs at this holiday season. I'm talking about folks who need more than just new pajamas, who need things like clean water, food, shelter, safety. Could I turn my trouble with making lists and shopping for others into something that would benefit those in true need?

I've been thinking of doing "alternative" gift giving for some time now. This year I received catalogs from Heifer International, World Vision, and our own Episcopal Relief and Development. I even heard on the radio about a website called redefinechristmas.org.

All of these entities share a common goal: to provide a means to sustain people who really need help by offering you the opportunity to supply livestock or seeds, or food or clothing to the truly needy. For as little as \$12 you can provide a family with two ducks, for \$105 you can provide a sheep (or a share of a sheep for \$35). There is a wide range of gifts—from money to drill a well or provide shelter for a single mother to providing school supplies or health care supplies for AIDS-inflicted children. Whatever your pocketbook can afford, there's an opportunity to help out.

I think I'll surprise some folks this year with a new "list" for me. And surprise them even more by giving gifts like these in their names!

For more information, see:

<http://er-dorg/giftsforlifecatalog> (Episcopal Relief & Development)

<http://www.heifer.org/catalog> (Heifer International)

<http://worldvisiongifts.org> (World Vision)

<http://redefinechristmas.org> (Redefine Christmas website)

Nancy McGarvey

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS AT TRINITY

Sunday, December 7 - A Service to Remember Ebony Dorsey

Ebony Dorsey was a high-school student murdered a year ago, and will be remembered with video, prayers, candle lighting, and music at the 5 p.m. service.

Bokamoso Youth Theater is coming to Trinity Church - January 24th & 25th, 2009

Who? Bokamoso means "future". In South Africa where 1.2 million children are orphaned due to Aids about 35% of the population is poor and up to 40% of the population is unemployed. The Bokamoso Life Center in Winterveldt, South Africa offers at risk youth a chance to reach their dreams. The center provides youth training in all around life skills and prepares them to return to school for more intensive job skill training through agencies which partner with Bokamoso. To raise funds for their education programs the Bokamoso Youth Theatre travels to the U.S. to sing traditional songs, perform plays, and talk about their lives in South Africa.

What? The Bokamoso Theater Group will perform a concert at Trinity and a free will offering will be gathered for their fund raising efforts. The group will share in an overnight experience with Trinity youth and youth from Chester Eastside Ministries. The group will be a part of our 10 a.m. Sunday liturgy.

Why? So that we might support this life saving ministry and have our lives blessed by their presence and performance.

When? The evening of January 24 (exact time yet to be determined) and at the 10 a.m. service on January 25.

Office Information
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The Staff of Trinity Church

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Kelly Rupprecht, Youth Minister
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The Vestry of Trinity Church

Barbara Davis	Rector's Warden
Brian Phillips	Communications
Ernest Dixon	Accounting Warden
Laura Gergen	Property
Cheryl Bayard	Clerk of Vestry / Christian Formation
Addie Johnson	Pastoral Care
Eileene Warren	Parish Life
Karen Reid	New Members
Sue Adair	Worship
Ed Mahler	Mission and Outreach
Nancy McGarvey	Stewardship
Piers Prater	Property

Chimes submissions to chimes@trinityambler.com

Marriages:

Jessica Bistany & Gregory Harm on 11/01/2008
Catherine Miller & Matthew Kilgore on 11/15/2008

Baptisms:

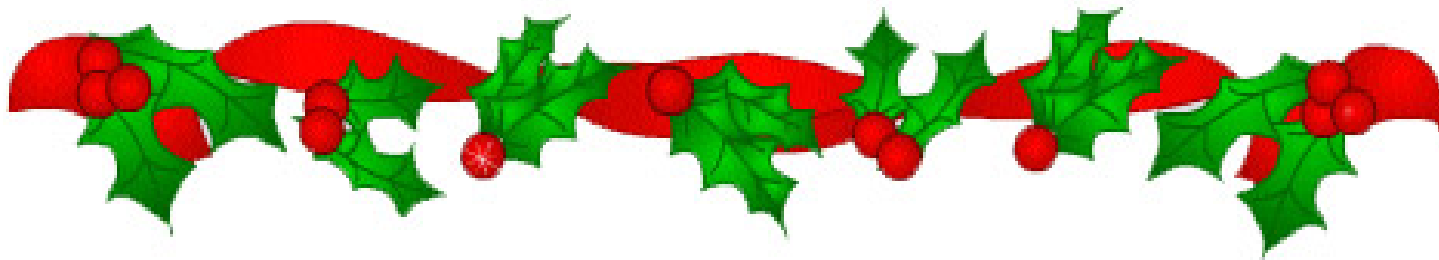
Victor Octavian Hahn on 10/12/2008
Isabella Camille Gallwey on 11/23/2008

Births:

Shane Derbyshire born on 10/24/2008
Jack Sparra born on 11/04/2008

Burials:

Scott Gardiner Saunders on 11/22/2008



**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL,
AND PEACE IN THE NEW YEAR**