

## **Vestry Letter July, 2008**

In last month's letter from our senior warden, Charles Key, he wrote about Trinity's participation at the Magnetic Church conference on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and this being "one more example of our commitment to opening up Trinity to new ministries and attracting our not-yet neighbors to join us in proclaiming the Gospel". After being asked and praying about this, I agreed to be the vestry member coordinating the welcoming committee and am excited about this ministry. For me, this ministry is not just about greeting and welcoming visitors and perspective new members, it's about making sure all of us feel welcomed at Trinity. I have been and will continue to seek feedback from members about Trinity and what makes us feel as if we're part of a community and suggestions for welcoming our visitors. So, please seek me out at coffee hour or call or email me with your suggestions and comments. Your input is very valuable and will be instrumental as we grow in this area.

A report was given to vestry last month on "Welcoming at Trinity" and this report outlined the history of our welcoming efforts and what we plan to do. After visiting several churches over the last six months, (both locally and out of the area and some Episcopal churches/cathedrals and some other denominations), I collected various materials and spoke with members about their welcoming process. I have also talked with those who attended the Magnetic Church conference and reviewed some of the material from that conference as well. Rev. Zane Wilemon and I have met and reviewed the forms and process currently used at Trinity and to continue with what he has initiated is what we're focusing on now. Zane and his committee of four other members (his wife Natalie, Shane Patrick Connolly, Rebekah Pope and John McCurry ) have been doing a wonderful job of greeting visitors and I'm looking forward to continue working with them and "**EXPANDING** and **GROWING**" the committee. One goal is to have enough members on this committee to form "teams of 3 or 4 members" with one designated "lead" each Sunday and the teams rotating and serving once a month. This will be for the 10:30 service and I'm hoping to get 1 person for the 8 o'clock service who will serve in this role. To date, I've had three members express an interest in joining this committee and am hoping this is something you'll consider doing as part of your ministry at Trinity. We will provide training mid August (date TBD) once Zane returns from Africa and the training will review our process of greeting, implement suggestions and role-plays from Magnetic Church conference and collection and organization of material.

Joe Pon, Zane Wilemon, Sue Hood and myself have been working on a Cathedral brochure, welcoming letter and evaluation form to give to visitors. We're also in the process of putting together a welcoming packet which will include a welcoming gift. Zane and I have reviewed various Christian published pamphlets on divorce, addiction, praying, domestic violence, etc which will be placed at the back of the church and in the parish hall. These pamphlets will have Trinity contact information stamped on them and will be something people can pick up anonymously that will serve as a reminder that church can be another place of support.

As you can see, this ministry carries over into so many other areas of the church and is an opportunity to work with the "old-timers" and the "newcomers" and a way to bring people

together with the purpose of sharing the Gospel. Inclusiveness has always been and will continue to be something I value and something we as Christians pray and work towards. I'm hoping you will support us by either joining this committee or by praying for us as we welcome new members, validate and nurture our current members and grow our membership. Welcoming guests to our church is one of the most basic Christian ministries. It requires just a small commitment of time and talent, and is vitally important. If you feel called to be a part of this ministry, contact Mary English @ (408) 379-1243. We need your help in growing this ministry.

*And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread and in prayers.....*

**Acts 2:42**

**Mary English**  
**Vestry member**