

# TRINITY TIDINGS



**SPECIAL EDITION**

Keepsake Issue  
on the  
United Nations'

**Millennium  
Development  
Goals**

 UN Millennium  
Development Goals



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## Special Edition on the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals

### The MDGs: Can Poverty be History?

**"The world now has the means to end extreme poverty; we pray we have the will."** - the *Counting Prayer* ([www.countingprayers.org](http://www.countingprayers.org))

The reality is staggering:  
- 1.2 billion people live on less than \$1/day;  
- Half a million women each year die of complications from pregnancy and childbirth;  
- Every 3 seconds, a child under age 5 dies from preventable, treatable causes;  
- 8,000 people *each day* die of HIV/AIDS. (Source: [www.e4gr.org](http://www.e4gr.org))

So the citizens of the world are on a mission – a mission to end hunger and poverty, to improve health, to empower individuals; a mission to combat deadly disease, to partner with our fellow man and to sustain our environment; a mission to advocate and take action; a mission, more simply, to carry out God's will to love and serve.

But how can we progress? Where do we even start? We start by looking to a set of goals that are specific, time-bound, achievable and collaborative: the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The MDGs are eight goals adopted in 2000 by 189 governments and world leaders, including the United States, that respond to the world's main development challenges and to the calls of civil society. Targeted to be completed by 2015, the Goals are to:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Create a global partnership for development with targets for aid, trade and debt relief.

To call these goals lofty is an understatement: they have the potential to affect the health and security of every citizen in the world. But with the resources and technology we have today, they are achievable. In fact, individual Goals have already been achieved by many countries.

The Episcopal Church endorses the achievement of the MDGs, challenging all dioceses and congregations to embrace the giving of 0.7% of annual diocesan income. In July, over 600 bishops and faith leaders marched through London on a "Walk of Witness" rally to symbolize their support of worldwide efforts to halve poverty by 2015. And now, the Vestry at Trinity Solebury has taken the first steps in adopting these Goals and is calling on the wider

parish to discern what more each of us can do, both collectively and individually, to further social justice.

The clock is ticking. The countdown to 2015 is six years, and close to 100 days. In this issue of *Tidings*, we hope you will be inspired to pray, to study, to give and to act in the call to serve our neighbors around the globe.

*May God bless and keep us in His hands.*

 <b>1</b> ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER	 <b>2</b> ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION	 <b>3</b> PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN
 <b>4</b> REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY	<b>The Millennium Development Goals</b>	 <b>5</b> IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH
 <b>6</b> COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES	 <b>7</b> ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	 <b>8</b> GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT



## Rector's Reflections

One of my best friends in this church, and in this life, is a priest named Mike. He is the father of two young boys, husband to a remarkable teacher and one of the most visionary humans on the planet. Years ago, he left parish ministry, called to serve as a chaplain on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis. During his tenure there, he took a sabbatical leave and spent time on pilgrimage in Ghana, Africa.

Travel can, and perhaps should be, an opportunity and occasion for conversion, a conversion of perspective, of opinion or of spirit. For Mike, it was all three, and more. He came home from that pilgrimage with a new vision for both his ministry and for his life.

The people he met, refugees, doctors, nurses, teachers, NGO workers, priests, volunteers, taught him that humanity's portrait is drawn from a palette deeper and richer than what he has assumed in his life to date. In his words, "I met Christ again." When he returned from that sabbatical, his work in campus ministry was just not quite enough to fill his new appetite for social justice. After a couple of years, he started the organization Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation, [www.e4gr.org](http://www.e4gr.org).

Mike's entrepreneurial venture was not a multi-million dollar hedge fund. It was not a partnership to market the latest widget. It was simply an effort to gather like-

minded Christians and people of faith under the banner of social and economic justice. He gathered a board, raised some money and started to tell his story. Just over a year later, he was at the end of his startup capital and was pondering other paths for his ministry to raise our awareness of the plight of human poverty around the world...and then came Episcopal Church's General Convention of 2006. Mike's last great effort became, in reality, his first. His efforts, coupled with initiatives around the Church, led our General Convention leadership to embrace and proclaim a new call in our common life as Christians, to seek and serve Christ in the poor and in those in need.

The lens that gives that call shape and structure is actually a secular tool, the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations. Our common call, through the ONE campaign ([www.one.org](http://www.one.org)) and a host of other organizations, directly addresses the deepest sins of human design and experience. Eight simple goals realized and less than one percent of every developed nation's GNP can, and will, eradicate extreme poverty in our lifetimes. That is, if we answer the call of Christ to heed those in need. For, in aiding them humanity itself is delivered. We have more than enough in this life, and it is time that we lived a more mindful and intentional commitment to our global neighbors.

From the single mother in Bristol struggling to keep food on the table, shoes on her children's feet and a roof over their head to a refugee family displaced by civil wars in Central Africa; from homeless teens in our inner cities to the aged and alone, people need help. And we can do something about it... one step, one gesture, one person at a time.

Mike's testimony gives me hope that even the most daunting challenge we face as a human race, the effort to eradicate poverty, can be addressed if we are willing to open ourselves as Christ has called us to be open to His calling to serve the poor. For in embracing that path, not only is poverty reduced...but true wealth - of spirit and in community - is made real.

On his last few dollars, Mike took the risk to keep proclaiming his message of service to the Other Who Is In Need to his Church. His Church, our Church, took notice. It is now time for us all to step up, and reach out. It is time for us to become One, with each other, with the Other and with Christ. You will find in these pages information and opportunities to deepen your household's commitment of service to Christ through the MDGs. The first step is the acquisition of knowledge; the next steps will follow. For now, let us learn and grow and pray together that God will give us the path forward - even as my friend Mike has experienced in his life.

Peace, MKS+

***"From the single mother in Bristol struggling to keep food on the table, shoes on her children's feet and a roof over their head to a refugee family displaced by civil wars in Central Africa, people need help. And we can do something about it...one step, one gesture, one person at a time."***

***- Marshall Shelly+***

## Assistant's Aside

In October of 2004, I had the opportunity to help out with the kick-off of The Episcopal Church's involvement in the Micah Challenge at the United Nations. The primary speaker for the event was The Rt. Rev. Njongkankulu Ndugane, Archbishop of Cape Town, successor to The Rt. Rev. Desmond Tutu.

The Micah Challenge is a global Christian campaign that aims to "deepen engagement with impoverished and marginalized communities; and to challenge interna-

tional leaders, and leaders of rich and poor countries, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and so halve absolute global poverty by 2015." ([www.micahchallenge.org](http://www.micahchallenge.org))

As with many in the room that day, this was my first encounter with the Millennium Development Goals. I was immediately moved by the Gospel witness put into action in these eight goals, and by the energy buzzing through the room at the idea that we could make poverty history in our lifetime.

As you consider the MDGs in the pages of this special edition of *Tidings*, I suggest that you keep always in your mind the New Covenant of Christ - that we love God above all else, and love our neighbors as ourselves. I think that you will be able to see that covenant at work in each of the Millennium Development Goals, and will be proud, just as I was that fall day four years ago, to be part of a church that puts its faith in action!



**"I was immediately moved by...the idea that we could make poverty history in our lifetime."**

**- Maricclair Partee+**

## Vestry Corner: The Millennium Promise

- by Sue Eavenson, People's Warden

On July 22, 2008 the Vestry of Trinity Church voted for a resolution to support the MDGs as they were set forth by the United Nations.

We, as a body in Christ seek to follow our Baptismal Covenant which is to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being. It was abundantly clear to all of us that we as a Church and as a vestry needed to commit wholeheartedly to these MDG goals, which identify the great needs of all God's people in this generation and generations to come. The Vestry agreed to the following:

"Be it resolved that the Rec-

tor, Wardens, officers and the Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church commit to a deeper study of the MDG goals, to examine the ways Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury is already working toward their achievement of these goals, and to explore and implement opportunities that might deepen and expand our parish commitment to this resolution."

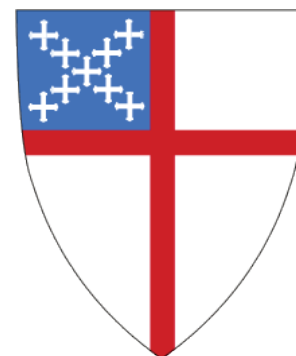
Otho Kerr and I, as wardens, encourage and challenge each and everyone in this parish and community to explore opportunities in your own life and with your family to help reach these life-altering goals. In the coming months, you will be hearing from many Trinitarians about ways to incorporate and support the MDG in your personal life and in the life of the parish.

We **can** make a difference in the world! Please take the

time to explore the various websites provided in this issue of *Tidings*.

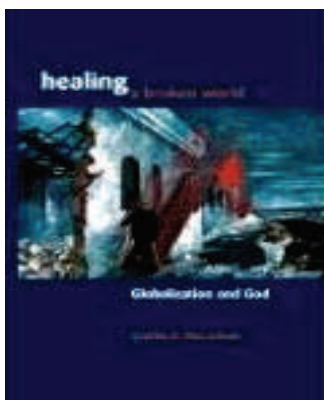
In Luke's Gospel we are reminded: "...From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." Luke 12:48.

Truly, we as a church community have been given so many of God's wonderful blessings. It is now our turn to give back to those who have so little. This is what Christ expects us to do.



**"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."**

**- Luke 12:48**



## “With God’s Help”

Have you noticed the order of the questions to which we respond in the Baptismal Covenant?

Before we are asked the question, “Will you respect the dignity of every human being?” we are asked, “Will you continue in the apostles’ teachings and fellowship, and in the prayers?”



The spiritual practices of engaging with Scripture, of being in fellowship with one another and of engaging in prayer is a means to being able to respect the dignity of every human being.

*But always “with God’s help.”*

## First Things First

- by Caroline Oakes McCarthy

The day I was asked to write about particular social justice activities that would support work toward fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), I had just finished reading an extraordinary book for a Christian Ethics summer course at General Seminary -- *Healing a Broken World: Globalization and God* by Cynthia Moe-Lobeda.

While she is an academic and not a theologian per se (Ph.D. from Union Seminary and professor of Ethics at Seattle University), Moe-Lobeda confirmed for me a theological conviction I have that the most important “social justice activities” supporting MDGs (or any social initiative) are, first and foremost, activities that engage us all together in regular, intentional engagement with God.

Moe-Lobeda outlines three specific ongoing practices as being integral and actually *essential* to the effectiveness and success of actual hands-on work being done toward the MDGs and other reconciliation work: 1) *worship life*, with a continual spoken emphasis by those in leadership on the unifying power of the Eucharist; 2) *intentional theological reflection*, i.e. regularly connecting daily events to scripture, as individuals and as a community; and 3) *Bible Study* focused on how the “in-dwelling God nurtures our hope in power beyond the human, and convinces participants to respond not as

isolated individuals, but as a body with diverse passions and diverse gifts.”

Once these practices are established, *then* all the *other* “social justice activities” we can imagine are possible to develop and sustain: consumer/investor action, liaisons with campaigns such as the ONE organization, engagement with equitable wage/labor businesses, affecting change in local, regional and national public policy. All the rest.

This makes good sense. When our rector spoke of the MDGs in his sermon on April 27, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., he pointed us to models of outreach both in the work of Martin Luther King and in the inspirational work of our very own Youth Group here at Trinity – the work Tyler Johnson eloquently described as “God’s work,” at the dedication of one of Mission Philadelphia’s gardens this summer.

It is vitally important that we look to both of these models not only in terms of the works they carry out for humanity, but in terms of how *grounded each are in prayer, in their full engagement with God, as the basis from which they draw their insight, their strength, and especially their endurance in times of conflict.*

Anyone involved in Mission Philadelphia or Wednesday Youth Group meetings knows that none of the work of Trinity Youth Group is

done without “circling up” in prayer. I can hear the voice of Steve Wilson saying, “Alright everybody, let’s circle up!” and instantly anywhere between 30 and 60 kids and sponsors gather around in a circle to pray together before they move back into “God’s work.”

Engaging in a daily individual devotional practice, and in a regular practice together with others, are the fundamental social justice activities necessary to support a Trinity MDG initiative. If you’d like to figure out a daily practice for yourself, or to form a Bible study/reflection group, Trinity’s clergy can help you. As a priest friend of mine often tells his parish – “That’s what we’re here for.”

There may also be fellow parishioners who inspire you to do more of “God’s work,” and you could ask them about their practice. You could consult [www.sdiworld.com](http://www.sdiworld.com) (Spiritual Directors International) and meet with a local spiritual director. There are many excellent spiritual directors in the local area who have an expertise in connecting prayer practice and study with outreach and social action. God’s help is as abundant as God’s love!



## The Joy and Responsibility of Teaching

- by Carol Church

There are moments in my memory that remain unfaded and clear. The joy of wanting to tell the world about the miraculous birth of my children is forever etched in my mind. Along with this elation there was another feeling that would not go away. The doctor came into my room, took one look at me and sat down in the chair next to me. With humor and wisdom this trusted doctor proceeded to give me an outline of a schedule that I would keep in my pocket for two weeks upon returning home.

This weight of responsibility pressed heavily in my heart. One thing remained certain. I knew that I wanted to do well, to succeed as a parent. I knew with the help of our Creator that I could learn how to be a parent. Three years later my second child was born. It became clear that all of the hard-earned

lessons were not enough, for no child is alike. Parenting a child is joyous and challenging. Educating a child is a rewarding responsibility.

As a teacher trained in education, I was grateful for a background in working with children, but still the challenges facing the future seemed great. When my first child was in third grade I heard about a school, Stuart Country Day School, founded on the concept that it is the whole child who must be educated, and through such well-formed intentions, the whole world most effectively can be made better. Stuart seeks to develop the whole child with the Sacred Heart social and academic goals in mind and encourages all students to develop their potential. Beginning in preschool and continuing through upper school, every student participates in an activity of community service. One learns from the beginning that

kindness to all is a goal for life.

How can we instill in our youth the importance, the *necessity* of living a life of love and service? We can look to goals like those of the Sacred Heart Education for inspiration:

- commit to a personal and active faith in God;
- commit to a deep respect for intellectual values;
- commit to social awareness, which impels to action;
- commit to building a community as a Christian value;
- commit to personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom.

An educational experience such as this is the work of a lifelong process to live in integrity, justice and freedom as we give ourselves to peace, and love for all.



**How can we instill in our youth the importance, the necessity, of living a life of love and service?**



### *Celebration Fund Provides Outreach Opportunities*

There are times when you are celebrating something in your life and you don't want or need any more presents. We have set up a "Celebration Fund" at Trinity for occasions just like that.

All contributions to the Celebration Fund will go to local and international Outreach initiatives at the end of each year. What a great way to invite family and friends to honor you while you are living. And what a great way to help Trinity, the Episcopal Church and the United Nations reach their Millennium Development Goals.



### Reaching out through Kiva.org



Through the help of Kiva, [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org), one person really *can* make a difference in the lives of others around the world!

Kiva lets you *lend* to a specific entrepreneur in the developing world - empowering them to *lift themselves out of poverty*.

Here is a sampling of the projects you can support with a small investment of \$25:

- a livestock business in Pakistan
- a construction business in Nicaragua
- a general store in the Dominican Republic
- a fruit and vegetable stand in Cambodia *and much more!*

## What Can One Person Do?

- by Jean Evans, Outreach Vestry Liaison

Sprinkled throughout this special issue of Tidings are ideas and thoughts that describe what one person at a time has done to make a difference. No one expects you to do all of these things, and in fact none of these things may be just what you feel called to do. But we hope that you will be interested in what others have done and pursue your own ways to help others.

Sparked by a campaign on the Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation website called Eat In to Help Out, Frank and I hosted a pot luck supper last July and asked everyone who attended to contribute what they would have spent going out to dinner. We raised \$550 and the group decided to use that money to make microloans through Kiva. Here are the stories of some of the people who benefited from our pot luck supper:

### Jairo Jose Baquedano - Chinandega, Nicaragua

From a young age, Jairo has made a living raising cattle in the "municipio" of Villanueva in the beautiful city of Chinandega. He's an excellent manager of animals and has succeeded in providing for his household with this business.

Despite his difficult economic situation, Jairo has managed through much sacrifice to drive ahead and improve his standard of living and that of his family.

He now needs to buy calves and special feed for them. It's for this reason that he's approached Ceprodel to apply for a loan that will, without a doubt, provide the kind of returns he needs to develop his livestock business. Hairo received a \$1200 loan that he is repaying back over a 24-month period.

### Florence Aidoo - Cape Coast, Ghana

Florence is married, has three children and makes a living preparing and selling food. Demand for her cooking is high, and she believes this is a good time to expand her small business. She received a loan of \$525 to buy additional cooking materials, and she is paying the loan back over seven months.

### Bahrihon Abdulloeva - Isfara, Tajikistan

Bahrihon is 42 years old and has four children. She has been in the rice trade business for five years. Rice is a product with no substitutes in Tajik families as it is from rice that Plov, the traditional Tajik dish, is made.

Bahrihon buys rice wholesale in local markets and she also travels to the wholesale market in neighboring Kyrgyzstan. Her workday starts early in the morning and continues into the evening. She has many steady clients and one can say that her profits are also steady. Two years ago she returned to MLF MicroInvest and received her first loan. Since then her business has increased several times over.

She has since borrowed an additional sum of money for the purchase of rice that she has also paid back.

Our group initially loaned money to eight individuals. As each loan is paid off, we re-lend the money. Today we are helping 14 entrepreneurs in Africa, Asia, Central America and South America.



The next Eat In to Help Out week is **October 13-October 21**, coinciding with:

- the end of the *Jubilee Cancel Debt Fast* on October 15
- the *International Day for the Eradication of Poverty* on October 17
- the Millennium Campaign's *Stand Up Against Poverty* on October 16 and 17

Join fellow Trinitarians, friends, neighbors or family members for an Eat In to Help Out event and make a difference, one person at a time!

For more information:  
[www.e4gr.org](http://www.e4gr.org).

## RSVP Provides Volunteer Opportunities for Adults

- by Ardith Talbott

Many of us are at a stage in life where we want to do more for our community but we are not sure where to turn. Last Fall, I was feeling this way and wanted to find a service organization that could use my professional abilities. Fortunately, someone told me about RSVP of Bucks County. RSVP is a national service group, administered by the *Corporation for National and Community Service*, which provides volunteer opportunities for those age 55+. There are over 700 RSVP volunteers in Bucks County working for 125 non-profit agencies. Volunteer coordinators help you match your skill and talents to a wide variety

of agencies providing services such as health insurance counseling, mentoring and tutoring, delivering meals, and developing marketing materials and program content. They help you find an agency that matches your interests, and find a job you can volunteer for. Some opportunities are ongoing and some are short-term, which means there are jobs that can fit the time you have to give. As we approach fall, it is a good time to call RSVP and set up a meeting with a volunteer coordinator about the positions they are looking to fill. It might prove to be a very fulfilling experience for you. Contact Lorraine Horvath, coordinator in Doylestown, at (215) 340-1210.



### Click for Compassion

In addition to websites referenced throughout this issue, check out:

[www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals) - information on MDGs, plus how to take action, youth corner and more

[www.dosomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org) - a resource for local volunteer opportunities for youth

[www.freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com) - an online vocabulary quiz that rewards correct answers by donating free food to countries in need

[www.thehungersite.com](http://www.thehungersite.com) - click on an icon daily, and sponsors donate one cup of food to the impoverished. The site also provides assistance in child health, literacy, breast cancer, habitat protection and animal rescue.

[www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) - a Christian-based website focused on ending hunger

[www.change.org/nonprofits](http://www.change.org/nonprofits) - connect to nonprofits on social issues to share ideas and organize action

## Reading List to Help Inspire Action

- by Marcia Tucker

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "We must be the change we wish to see in the world." Two recently published books on providing assistance to communities in need illustrate this sentiment, but from two very diverse experiences. In the first book, *Three Cups of Tea*, Greg Mortenson, a mountain climber, stumbled into his passion for building schools in Afghanistan after his rescue of another climber caused him to fail his ascent up K2. Exhausted, he wandered lost into a small town, Korphe, where he connected spiritually with the local population. He was appalled to discover the poor state of

schooling in remote regions of Afghanistan - particularly for girls. Although struggling financially, Mortenson was able to procure funding for his dreams and learned to work with a population and country which continues its struggle with the Taliban. Well written, with a wonderfully fluid narration by Mortenson and co-author David Oliver Relin, you will be transported into one of the most inaccessible places on earth and will feel uplifted by the generosity of the human spirit. Mortenson has built 55 schools to date.

The second book by John S. Burnett, *Where Soldiers Fear to Tread: a Relief Worker's Tale of Survival*,

tells of the harrowing relief work that Burnett involved himself in with the 1997-1998 flood-relief operations in Somalia. Burnett and other UN relief workers were assured a safe post, which turned out was beset by poverty and riddled with violence. His experiences are not unique, and this book provides insights on why people risk their lives to assist others. More relief workers have been killed since 9/11 than peacekeepers. *If you are interested in these books and are unable to obtain them locally, consider purchasing them through Trinity's link to amazon.com. Stay tuned for more ideas!*



**Three Cups of Tea is an inspirational story about one man's mission to promote peace, one school a time.** Image courtesy of Greg Mortenson, Central Asia Institute

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Youth Ministries  
John Daukas

Worship and Music  
Irma Fralic

Communications & Technology  
Fred Koberna

Spiritual Formation  
(pending)

Finance  
Christopher White

Clerk of Vestry  
Megg King

Governance  
David Rees

Treasurer  
Douglas McArthur

Day School  
Kim Moore

**We Welcome All**



Join Us on Sunday,  
**October 19** for  
Trinity's 1st



**U2Charist**

*celebrating our commitment  
to the*

**Millennium  
Development Goals**

*featuring inspiring music  
and an interactive service  
focused on social justice*

Support the MDGs by donating to Trinity's ongoing food and clothing ministries:



**NGA** - new clothing in all sizes for all ages

**Seaman's Church Institute** - hand-knitted watch caps, and new or gently-used L/XL men's clothing for sailors at sea

*in-gathering on October 26*

**Lambertville Food**

**Pantry** - non-perishable food donations collected every Sunday



Trinity Church and the Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation invite all to take part in the

**MDG Day of Fasting, Prayer & Advocacy**

**Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation**

Go to [www.sept25.org](http://www.sept25.org) and commit to

- + Pray
- + Fast
- + Witness

Thursday, September 25  
*watch for notices!*

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.Trinitysolebury.org](http://www.Trinitysolebury.org)