



THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Trinitarian

November 2020

A REFLECTION FROM YOUR INTERIM PRIEST

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, His mercy endures forever. [Psalm 106.1]

Thanksgiving!

Even though we only live seventeen miles from our daughter, son-in-law, and grandson, we will not be sharing Thanksgiving dinner together for the first time in our life as a family. We are cautious about sharing a meal indoors because my husband is a cancer survivor, my daughter is pregnant, our grandson is just a year old, and I am out and about in public places. We long for carefree hugs and joyful feasting, but I also know that in our longing each of us feels more deeply thankful for the gift of our family, a gift that we have too often taken for granted.

Thanksgiving!

Someone pointed out to me recently that the French word for “thank you”--*merci*--reminds us of the word “mercy.” Jesus quoted the prophet Hosea when he said, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice,” [Hosea 6:6] to religious leaders who questioned his decision to put the needs of people before religious observance (Matthew 9:13 & 12:7). He reminds us that our faith frees us to see more clearly both the needs to which we must respond and the gifts we have been given to share. “Thanksgiving” is a way of life. Thanksgiving is offering mercy – to ourselves, to each other, to those people we might otherwise want to exclude. Thanksgiving is wonder at the small, tender mercies of every day. Thanksgiving is expressing an abiding strength that will not be diminished by the demands we face in these days. Thanksgiving is trusting that we will have enough—enough time, enough company, enough strength, enough love. Thanksgiving is an act of love and hope at a time when it is so hard to show and share our feelings with each other.

Thanksgiving!

Your pledges of time, talent, and treasure are part of your preparation for a new ministry that will be grounded in your gratitude--for the history you share, for the leaders who have guided you, for the numberless ways, large and small, that your hearts have been opened unexpectedly at Trinity. The very longing that shadows our days is a sign of the grace to be found here. The loving grace of God is the one constant in our lives, and our empowering compassion for each other is the one constant in the life of Trinity.

May our longing make each of us more deeply thankful for the gift of faithful companionship, a gift that we may have too often taken for granted.

Thanksgiving!

Mother Judith+

DURING THIS TIME – NOVEMBER 2020

*God of all delight, grant us that joy which none can take from us,
of having a work to do, a life to live; that joy in believing
which will carry us through temptation, anxiety and grief. Amen.*

-from A New Zealand Prayer Book

1. We will not gather for indoor worship for the foreseeable future. Our sanctuary lacks proper ventilation and is not large enough to gather safely even for a short service.
2. This is our Sunday schedule for October and November:
 - **8 am** Outdoor service of Holy Communion in the parking lot
 - **9 am** Morning Prayer on Zoom
 - **9:30 am – 10 am** Zoom Coffee Hour
 - **9:45 am** Zoom Sunday School begins with a Children's Prayer and Homily
 - **10am – 10:30 am** Zoom Sunday School Class: pre-K – grade 5
 - **10:45-11:15am** Zoom Sunday School Class: grades 6-9
 - **10:30am -11:30 am** Distribution of Holy Communion to individuals in the church
 - **Sunday afternoon** - Home Communion for those who request it
3. We will have virtual **Sunday School on Zoom every Sunday at 9:45 am and 10:45 am –** separate groups for younger and older youth. On the first Sunday of each month, we will have family service at which our youth are readers. On the other Sundays, children and youth from St. Matthew's-Worcester and the United Parish of Upton join us for class. We hope to have High School Youth Group plans in place by December.
4. We will plan for a virtual service of Holy Communion in addition to Morning Prayer on Sundays beginning November 29, the first Sunday of Advent.
5. In the coming weeks, we will make plans for virtual worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
6. On the third Sunday of each month, the Wardens and Vestry members will assist in leading worship and will lead discussion after the service about Vestry decisions and planning. We will also have an update from the Profile Committee. These will be held on November 15th and December 20th.
7. The Christmas Fair will be held online this year. We will have a separate website for shopping and placing orders.
8. Our Stewardship Campaign will include online reflections and options for giving.
9. Laundry Love is continuing with a partnership with Lisa Trusas, who will distribute packets of laundry supplies to people living in shelters in Milford and neighboring towns.
10. We have reviewed our new Building Policy and Building use with all the groups who held meetings at Trinity Church before we shut down. Some groups have returned, while others have decided to continue meeting remotely.

11. We will distribute Grab-n-Go meals from Trinity every Thursday beginning at 4:00 pm. A grant from the Greater Milford Community Health Network (CHNA6) allows us to purchase meals from local restaurants on the first three Thursdays of the month as a way of supporting both local businesses and our neighbors. On the last Thursday of each month, we will distribute a meal prepared in our kitchen. Every week we will include a face mask, hand sanitizer, and dessert with the meal, while non-perishable food and knitted hats are available to take home. Your generous donations will make it possible for us to continue after November and we are seeking grants to fund this program every Thursday through the spring.
12. Abundant Care, Inc. will prepare take-out Thanksgiving Dinner this year. Please see Dave Scott, Justin Varteresian, or Marty Ploof Jr. to learn how you can help.
13. We will meet on Zoom for Morning Prayer on Wednesdays at 10 am, Zoom Chats on Wednesday evenings at 7pm, and Bible Study on Fridays at noon through the month of November. ROMEOs will continue to meet on Zoom on the first Friday of the month.
14. Family Game Night and Bingo will resume when the cold weather begins.
15. **Sacred Ground:** Trinity is hosting this program designed by the Episcopal Church. Approximately 30 participants meet either on alternate Sundays 5-6:30pm or on alternate Tuesdays 7-8:30 pm on Zoom until Thanksgiving.

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR 2020



Trinity is having a virtual Christmas Fair this year. It will be pared down considerably but the people who work on the fair are finding a way to offer a part of our lovely fair to the community and the parish. We are working on a website that will offer greens, cookies, gourmet baskets, and children's items. You can donate money for a scarf or pair of mittens to someone in need, or even a soup and sandwich.

We are also looking into having a raffle on a smaller scale called the 12 days of Christmas. We will let you know when the site is coming out and where you can find it. We are hoping to be on all available advertising avenues available, including the Internet and the newspaper.

Please note the items listed below that are needed for our gourmet baskets. Expect a phone call for donations to this raffle if you have helped in the past. We will also accept donations from anyone, and they can be like donations from past raffles, such as restaurant gift cards, supermarket cards, gifts, store cards, and so forth.

We will be offering themed gourmet gift baskets. Eight coffee baskets, eight soup baskets, and eight game night baskets for a total of 24 baskets. Please note the items below that we would like. We would also like empty baskets if you have a basket you can donate.

Coffee Baskets

- 1lb bags of coffee (8)
- sets of decorative coffee mugs (8)
- bagged/boxed cookies, biscotti, shortbread
- flavored stirrers
- any kind of coffee themed treats i.e.: chocolate covered espresso beans etc.

Soup Baskets

- No soup is needed, this is already donated
- paper-themed napkins
- sets of soup bowls with handles (8)
- small bagged pretzels, crackers, goldfish, etc.

Game Night Baskets

- movie theater sized individual candy boxes
- microwave popcorn
- Jiffy pop
- boxed card games, such as Sorry or Uno
- jigsaw puzzles
- travel size games like checkers, Jenga, Yahtzee, charades, and so forth.
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You can drop off items at the church on Monday - Thursday during office hours, no later than 2pm please. You can call Magee before you drop off and there will be a box at the back-door and the side door entrances to put items in. You can also drop items off on Sunday morning between 7:30 am & 11:30 am. The contact person is **Joan Campbell**. Please send her an email at april4163@hotmail.com to let her know what items you donated so we can keep track of what we will need. We will be putting the baskets together as we get items so the earlier the better. We need donated items **NO LATER** than **NOVEMBER 6th**.

Thank you,

Gayle Ruscitti and Mary Ellen Yaroshefski



ROMEOs LUNCHEONS

The Romeo's lunch group will meet on Zoom at 12:30 on Friday, November 6, 2020. Mother Judith will send a computer link over email when we get closer to that actual date. If you would like to attend, please contact Dave Clinkman at clinkman@comcast.net or 508-634-8996 by Wednesday, November 4th. Romeo's is a social group for retired men and other men who wish to join us at lunch time.

JULIETs luncheons will resume when we are able to meet indoors at a restaurant. Please contact Pat Keppler for further information.

A NOTE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

How strange it feels to still be restricted by the presence of the coronavirus! Seven months ago, it seemed like we would be back to normal in a short time. Now it seems that whatever "normal" we're headed for is still months away. I find the inability to be with friends and acquaintances truly isolating. It's hard not to attend in-person events. I never imagined that a trip to the grocery store, one of my least favorite activities, would feel like an adventure requiring preparation and planning and would become something I would look forward to.

I feel that same sense of isolation when it comes to church. It would be so wonderful if we could all show up on Sunday morning and sit in our favorite pews and share the Eucharist. Unfortunately, that's just not possible at Trinity right now for a number of reasons. The configuration of our sanctuary is such that even if it were open for services, we would only be able to allow a few people to attend and still meet the number and spacing guidelines set by the state and town. We couldn't have a choir or hymns because spacing requirements increase dramatically when people are singing. Even a soloist would reduce the number of participants significantly. Additionally, we don't have a ventilation system strong enough to exchange the air and assure the safety of parishioners.

I know that most of us are eager to get back into church and some of you have noted that some churches in the area are open for indoor worship. We need to remember that each building is different and that some are more adaptable to the current guidelines than others. Our older and smaller facility isn't among them. Mother Judith, the wardens, and vestry really don't like not being able to schedule services, but we have a responsibility to provide worship space that is safe, and we can't do that indoors right now.

We now have an 8 AM Sunday outdoor Eucharist in the church parking lot and there's an opportunity to come into the church on Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM to receive communion and experience silent prayer. And the 9 AM Sunday Zoom Morning Prayer service followed by "coffee hour" at 9:30 is still happening. These are all wonderful opportunities to share common worship and visit with friends.

Community meals are happening every Thursday evening. This important ministry is expanding as the number of people in need of food is increasing with what is for many an economic crisis. Volunteer opportunities are available if you would like to participate. This time of coronavirus feels dark and forbidding, especially with winter approaching. We are not on a path that we would have chosen, and though we may mourn what we have lost, we also need to be thankful for the opportunities for change and growth that God is giving us.

Ginny Starkis
Senior Warden



 OCTOBER MEETING SUMMARY	
Energy Audit	An energy audit of the rectory was performed by Mass Save. Efficient power strips and lightbulbs were provided. Vestry voted to add insulation in the walls and weatherstripping, which can be done at no cost to us.
Treasurer's Report	Cheryl presented the report for the quarter ending 09/30/20. We are behind in pledges by \$8,136. Reminders/statements were sent out to those with pledges that are behind. Because of large anonymous donations to

	<p>Faith Funding, we are still ahead in income \$9,443. In spending, we are underspent by \$16,142.</p> <p>Cheryl reported successful turnover of several of the Treasurer's duties to the Parish Secretary (Magee). This moves us toward the goal of making the overall Treasurer's responsibilities less onerous, hopefully increasing our ability to recruit a new Treasurer so that Cheryl can step down.</p>
Stewardship Campaign	<p>Kevin Keppler reported on Stewardship as he has agreed to chair the committee. Pat Keppler, Beth Moeller, and Valerie King have also agreed to serve on the Stewardship Committee this year. The theme will be "Thanksgiving". The first letter will go out to the Parish during the week of October 26th. Stewardship information may be posted on the website to enable people to pledge through a "click" on the website.</p>
Laundry Love	<p>Mary Johnson has been in contact with Lisa Trusas, dispatcher for the Milford Police Department. Lisa is aware of the need for homeless people living in the area to get their laundry done. Mary will drop off quarters, detergent, and clean bags with Lisa. Lisa will keep track of requests for laundry assistance. Lisa will also provide laundry assistance kits to police departments in the neighboring towns of Bellingham, Mendon, Hopedale, Upton, Northbridge, and Uxbridge.</p>
Community Meals	<p>Glen Peterson spoke about a Christmas community meal since we cannot host one this year. Johnny Jack's Restaurant is one of the few restaurants open on Christmas Day. Glen suggested we try and arrange some type of voucher program with Johnny Jack's to provide breakfast for food-insecure people on Christmas Day. The cost would be about \$12 for each adult and \$6 per child. Vestry authorized Glen to move forward negotiating with Johnny Jack's and to spend up to \$1,000 from the Community Meals budget.</p>
Thanksgiving Meal Distribution	<p>Justin Varteresian is working with Dave Scott to continue our tradition of Thanksgiving meals for delivery to those in need. He anticipates funding this largely through donations from local businesses. He confirmed that all safety protocols for preparing the meals under COVID restrictions will be followed and suggested that we stagger the meal pick-up to avoid too many people congregating. If families are making deliveries, only one member should pick up the food. Lisa Ruggiero offered to be the Vestry liaison from Trinity. St. Mary's has identified a liaison who is already working with Dave Scott. The vestry authorized up to \$600 for funding, although Justin thinks he will not need it.</p>
Christmas Fair	<p>Gayle Ruscitti and Mary Ellen Yaroshefski met with the table chairs and they have developed a plan for an online Christmas Fair. It will include the raffle, pre-ordered greens,</p>

	cookies, and other options. Beth Moeller’s daughter Heidi will do the technical work to establish an online site to run it.
Mother Judith’s Report	<p><i>What have we done well?</i></p> <p>Community meals and expanded worship opportunities, including outdoor worship and private communion, in addition to Zoom Morning Prayer, which continues to be well attended.</p> <p>Mother Judith gave special thanks to Glen Peterson for his work with community meals.</p> <p>At the Clergy Meeting, the Bishop asked that parishes NOT hold indoor services as COVID numbers are rising.</p> <p>There is an online Diocesan service of Evening Prayer on Sunday, November 1st at 5pm. This is the start to the online Diocesan Convention.</p> <p>There will be a live-streamed Ecumenical Service of Remembrance and Witness for those who have died from COVID on Wednesday, October 28th at 7pm.</p> <p>The Saturday Al-Anon group is meeting in the Lane Chapel as well as Zooming people in so they can be inclusive and stay below the in-person space limitations. The Girl Scouts (3 senior scouts) and the Tai Chi group are also meeting there.</p> <p>Leigh Martin, Chair of the Profile Committee, led the Vestry as the initial focus group for the purpose of preparing the Profile. Similar meetings will be held with other groups of parishioners in the coming weeks.</p>

STEWARDSHIP



It’s that time again...

Your 2021 Stewardship Committee has formed and we held our first meeting. So far, the committee consists of Beth Moeller, Valerie King, and Pat Keppler. As our theme this year, the committee has chosen “Thanksgiving.” Our guiding Scripture will be Psalm 106:

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever. [Psalm 106.1]*

Kevin Keppler, Chairperson



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Don’t forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, October 31st.

THANK YOU, VETERANS!



Veterans Day, which is November 11th each year, is a holiday to honor America's veterans for their patriotism and willingness to serve and sacrifice for our nation's common good.

Christians follow the Prince of Peace, so war is a dilemma that often challenges people of faith. Some Christians are pacifists, while others believe in a "just war." Many believe that the goals of freedom, justice, equality and democracy are worth the cost required.

Whatever individual Christians decide about any given conflict, most Christians believe that men and women who strive to make this world free of tyrants are to be respected. As Winston Churchill said, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Thank you to all the men and women who served or are now serving our country.

WHAT I'VE LEARNED FROM COVID

The COVID pandemic has dominated our lives since early spring, changing how we all behave and altering what we can do and cannot do. For me, the absence of music-making has created an enormous empty space. But as a choir director, it is not only the musical component but also the personal interaction and the camaraderie. Occasionally, there would be a Tuesday afternoon when it was cold and dark, and it was time to head for Milford from Worcester. It would seem easier to remain where it was warm and comfortable, but the responsibility of conducting a rehearsal took precedence and I ventured to Trinity.

Surprisingly, within minutes of starting rehearsal, any reservations I may have had disappeared. It was replaced with a new sense of energy and enthusiasm created by the individuals who make up the Trinity Choir. Each member brings his or her own special gifts to the choir. The unique qualities of each member create a new whole that would not be the same without any one of them.

I greatly miss those energizing moments that occur during rehearsals on Tuesday evenings from early September to early June each year. COVID has made me aware of how much I miss working with this special group of people, and the sense of energy and satisfaction they create in me. I eagerly wait for the time when I can again work with the Trinity Choir and experience all that is now missing from Tuesday evenings.

Randy Bloom

Minister of Music, Trinity Episcopal Church

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

Just a reminder that the deadline for submissions for the December edition of *The Trinitarian* is November 15th. Content that is submitted late may not make it into the newsletter. All articles should be sent to: news@trinitychurchmilford.org.



From the Editor

Can any of you believe we are almost in November? Where has the year gone while we have been riding the tides of this horrible pandemic? It is a year I would like to put behind me as it has been a year of great loss for many people. This year I will work extra hard to reflect on all that I have to be grateful for. Happy Thanksgiving!

Elizabeth Kfisiewicz, Editor
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