



THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Trinitarian

September 2020

A REFLECTION FROM YOUR INTERIM PRIEST



Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river, and mother earth.

[Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 9]

September 1st is World Day of Prayer for Creation Care, and in our readings, prayers, and Sunday School activities on the Sundays in September we will join other Episcopal churches in observing the Season of Creation, which will culminate on October 4th with the Blessing of the Animals. Plan to bring your pets to Trinity for a blessing and a packaged treat on October 4th!

During this time when we are constantly facing the dangers of contamination and when the distance between us often seems unsurmountable, it is good to remember that we are *woven together in the love of God*, and that we share our *wonderful pilgrimage* through this Earth with companions we may or may not recognize. Our ministries reverberate in ways we cannot know or understand, but at the same time they are just small elements in the divine *weaving* that is our universe. Even as we take care of our own health and the people entrusted to our care, we also learn new ways to take care of the Earth — land, atmosphere, oceans; even as we learn more about the dangers of the coronavirus, we also learn more about the Earth that gives us the life we share.

As your Profile Committee works throughout the fall, you will be called together to share your thoughts, hopes, and insights. Yours are the eyes and ears that will allow the Profile Committee to create an honest “profile” of Trinity – not an idealized or aspirational portrait, but a true story about your openings for growth as well as the places and times of blossoming. In order to understand and celebrate the bonds that have made you so resilient, we must look at the times when those bonds have been tested. As in our personal lives, the Trinity community has been woven together by reaching out to each other and to our neighbors in longing as well as in gratitude. We do this now as we continue to grow together in a world that’s often hard to recognize, where new life is coming into view even in the desolation around us.

Although we may be able to gather in small groups and we will have some variety in worship, Zoom will be our place for worship and fellowship during the fall months. It’s been quite wonderful to see each of you become accustomed to Zoom — and to see your patience with me as we laugh together through small glitches! We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Ann Marie

for all her time and expertise, and to Wayne Stochaj, Randy Bloom, and Jeff Lukas for helping to weave us together in our worship.

The beginning of the program and school year is usually a time of excitement and renewal. I hope the prayers and reflections during this Creation Season will provide a place of calm and hope as all our families navigate uncharted land. Let us pray for the grace to feel ourselves woven into the love of God:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the true sun of the universe, ever rising, never setting. You are the source of all life and health. With your glance you generate, preserve, and sustain all things both in heaven and on earth. Dawn in our souls, that the night of our mistrust and the clouds of our fears may be dispelled. With your light within us and before us, may we go through all of life honoring and cherishing your presence everywhere around us. Amen

Judith+

DURING THIS TIME – September 2020

*Lord, use us to heal broken systems.
Equip us with wisdom and foresight.
May our lives interrupt injustice with your grace. Amen.*

-from Common Prayer

1. On August 10th, the Vestry approved a new Building Use Policy and a Building Use Agreement that outline safety protocols for using the building during the pandemic and procedures for arranging to hold meetings or events at Trinity. We will review these documents with representatives of all the groups who have been meeting at Trinity and, pending a diocesan peer review of our plans, we hope to open the building to community groups and to small parish groups in early September. Only the offices, Lane Chapel and the two bathrooms will be open. Pending this review the office will also be open to the public 4 days/ week beginning in September.
2. The Public Health Inspector visited our kitchen on August 13th and gave us the necessary protocols for using the kitchen to prepare takeout community meals. The volunteer team will present a proposal to the Vestry, and pending Vestry approval followed by a diocesan Peer Review, we hope to offer takeout meals for our neighbors prepared in our kitchen on the last Thursday of every month. We hope to include with each takeout meal a container of hand sanitizer and a face mask, and we are exploring ways to give our guests a book, puzzle, game, or craft kit as a way to endure the loneliness and isolation of living through the pandemic. Watch for more information on how to donate items.
3. We have received a grant from the Greater Milford Community Health Network (CHNA) to continue purchasing meals from local restaurants for our neighbors through November. This grant will enable us to feed our neighbors more than once a month and to continue support for our local businesses through the fall and winter.

4. We will continue virtual worship on **Sundays (9am) and Wednesdays (10am)** until further notice. Mother Judith is exploring ways to share Holy Communion safely, but we need to remember that any church gathering in an enclosed space without enhanced ventilation, especially with choral music and Holy Communion, is an ideal environment for transmission of the coronavirus. We are setting an example of endurance and compassion for our community.
5. We will re-open the church for private prayer at designated times during the week beginning **September 20th**.
6. On the Sundays in September we will have a weekly Sunday School activity posted on our website and in our weekly e-news. We will begin virtual **Sunday School on Zoom on Sunday October 4th**. There is a possibility that children from other Episcopal churches will join us for Sunday School, which will build up a larger group of children and will give all the teachers some support.
7. **Zoom Chats, Bingo, Family Game Night** will resume in October, after the uncertainties of the new school year have been settled.
8. **Confirmation and Holy Communion Class:** The Bishop's visitation is scheduled for next March. We will explore the possibility of having a Confirmation class for youth who are in 10th grade or above, and a Holy Communion class for children who are age 7 and above. Mother Judith will meet with the families and teachers on Zoom in September to discuss plans.
9. **Pastoral Care:** A Pastoral Care Team, chaired by Mary Johnson, is staying in touch with members of the congregation by telephone or notes. If you would like to join this team or share a prayer request, please contact Mary at mary.johnson8@comcast.net
10. **Parish Meetings** – The Profile and Search Committees will host parish meetings on Zoom during October as part of the process of preparing the Parish Profile. Dates and Times TBA
11. One Sunday each month, the Wardens and Vestry members will assist in leading worship and will lead discussion after the service about Vestry decisions and planning. Typically, this will be on the third Sunday of each month (after the Vestry meeting), beginning on **September 20th**.



ROMEOs LUNCHEONS

The Romeo's group will meet on Zoom at 12:30pm on Friday, September 11, 2020. Mother Judith will send a computer link when we get closer to that date. If you would like to attend, please contact Dave Clinkman at clinkman@comcast.net or 508-634-8996 by Wednesday, September 9. Romeo's is a social group for retired men and other men who wish to join us at lunchtime. 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

I hope this month's newsletter finds you well and safe.

Like you, I miss the opportunity to be together at church, but even as we wish we could see each other in person, we recognize how important it is to be cautious and protect one another from becoming ill. For now, we are gathering virtually. If you have not had a chance to join our Sunday morning Zoom services, please do. It's an opportunity to see old friends and make new ones as we share worship and then catch up on how people are doing. It's not the same as worshipping in person, but it is a vital sharing of who we are and our common worship.

We are again moving forward in our search for a new rector. I'm excited to share that the vestry has appointed members of our two important committees for this undertaking. **Profile Committee:** Leigh Martin, Chair; Dave Clinkman, Mary Beth Sweet, Peach Warren, and Wayne Stochaj, Vestry Liaison; **Search Committee:** Pam Hennessey, Chair; Katherine Cote, Jim Donohoe, Steve Howe, Touie Jackson, Mary Johnson, Hilary Stafford, and Lucille Clinkman, Vestry Liaison. The members of these committees consist of a diverse cross-section of parishioners and they bring skills, commitment, and faithfulness to the important tasks they are undertaking. Please keep them in your prayers.

The Vestry, Profile Committee, and Search Committee met with Canon Rich Simpson to review the overall search process and ask questions and express any concerns. We will meet with him again on September 12th to review the results of the Holy Cow Survey (CAT). Thanks to all of you who completed the survey. It will help us define who we are and who we are seeking in a new rector.

In September, the Profile Committee will begin creating the profile that describes us for clergy who are seeking a new congregation. That work will continue through December or January. Once the profile is completed and circulated, the Search Committee will begin receiving names and interviewing candidates for the position of rector. That work will take place from February until April or May. The Search Committee will identify two or three candidates they believe to be a good match for Trinity and will pass that information on to the Vestry for final interviews. Although this process is taking us somewhat longer than we imagined last fall, the delay has given us the opportunity to reflect on who we are now and where we would like to go.

In October we will again be hosting meetings to hear from parishioners. This time our focus will be on what we are looking for in a new rector. Most of the meetings will be on Zoom, but we will schedule some small groups to meet in the Lane Chapel. We'll let you know place and times when we're closer to the actual dates.

We're working to open the church for worship and other events, but the process is slow, and we need to assure the safety of everyone who comes into the church or parish hall. We're guided by guidelines from the CDC, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Board of Health, and the Diocese.

Our community meals committee has been providing grab-and-go meals prepared by Oliva's on the last Thursday of the month. Their plan for the fall, when approved by the Board of

Health and the Diocese, is to prepare a hot grab-and-go meal. Their creativity and commitment are to be commended!

Thanks to all of you who have been so faithful in fulfilling your pledges. We've been able to pay our bills and keep up maintenance on the church and the rectory.

Special thanks to Mother Judith, who arrived at Trinity just a few weeks before we had to close the building. She stepped into a new environment knowing none of us and has become our wonderful pastor, guide, and resource. We are truly blessed to have her with us during these uncharted and unsettling times.

Please check your weekly Thursday e-news for what's going on in the parish and how to connect with our weekly events. The month of August has been a little quiet but in September and October we'll be bringing back our family events and study groups. Sunday and Wednesday morning services are always available. If you're having trouble connecting and don't have a young person to help you connect, please contact me or Mother Judith.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon. Stay safe and well.

Ginny Starkis
Senior Warden

A PRAYER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end war;
for we know that You have made the world in a way that people must find their own path
to peace within themselves and with their neighbors.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation;
for You have already given us the resources with which to feed the entire world,
if we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice;
for You have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all people,
if we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair;
for You have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope,
if we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease;
for You have already given us great minds with which to search out cures and healing,
if we would only use them constructively.

Therefore we pray to You instead, O God, for strength, determination and will power,
to *do* instead of just pray, to *become* instead of merely to wish. Amen.

<https://socialjustice.org>



AUGUST MEETING SUMMARY

This meeting was held remotely by Zoom.

Treasurer's Report

- Cheryl presented the Treasurer's Report as of the end of June. We are ahead almost \$16K because of unexpected Diocesan Grants and a large donation to Faith Funding. We are on budget for pledge income. We are underspent in many areas and overspent in a few (computer upgrades, rectory repairs) with a net underspending by about \$11K. We need to watch carefully in the 3rd quarter to track pledge income, which does appear to have fallen off a bit in July.

All the computer upgrades and data migrations have been completed.

Senior Warden's Report

- Ginny reviewed the abutter's notice for the change in the classification of the building on the corner across the street. Instead of being an office, it will become a 2-unit apartment building. No one felt we had any reason to object.
- As of August 7th We had received just over 60 responses to the Holy Cow Survey, which closes on August 17th.
- A resolution to appoint the Search Committee passed, naming Pam Hennessy as Chair, Steve Howe, Jim Donahoe, Hilary Stafford, Touie Jackson, Katherine Cote, and Mary Johnson as committee members. Lucille Clinkman will act as Vestry Liaison.

Junior Warden's Report

- Susan spoke about the need to begin to think about this year's Stewardship campaign. In September we really need to get organized.
- A revised "Building Use Agreement with Addenda" and a "Building Use Policy" resolution was passed. The agreement will be reviewed for renewal early next year.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vestry voted to open the building for community groups and small parish groups. This authorizes Mother Judith or others on the Building Use subcommittee to meet with groups who want to return to using our space and to plan compliance with our requirements. We are only offering the Lane Chapel meeting room. No access will be given to the rest of the building at this time.
<p>Reverend Judith's Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother Judith announced that Cindi Scrimgeour has resigned from the remainder of her one-year vestry position. • Milford Public Health will come on Thursday to begin the process of setting in place protocols for meal preparation for feeding the community from our kitchen. We will then submit a proposal to the Diocese for Peer Review. • The Diocese has advised that they cannot approve any indoor elements for the Christmas Fair. Gayle will meet with the Table Chairpersons to see what creative means we can employ for using pre-orders and online options to hold some type of event. • A letter from Randy was received by the Vestry, detailing his research into what other parishes are doing for music during this remote worship time. Most involve hardware, software, and/or technical talents different than those we currently possess. We will continue with the combination of recordings and Zoom broadcasts for now.

STEWARDSHIP 2021 UPDATE



What a year 2020 has been and it is only August. We have all faced many challenges as individuals, career professionals, family members, community members, and parishioners of Trinity. Although we have had such challenges, we do have much to be thankful for. First and foremost, we are thankful for having Mother Judith as our Interim Priest. She has done an amazing job getting to know Trinity, getting to know most of the parish, and helping Trinity adjust to our Diocese Coronavirus guidelines. She has worked hard to provide us with creative choices for worship and

Bible study. Now she is guiding us as we move forward with our Search process. We are blessed!

Another area of thanks is to all of you, for your faithfulness to Trinity as you continue your commitment to providing Trinity with your pledges online or by mail. We have been able to keep up with our bills. Thank you!

Vestry is going to form a Stewardship Committee at their meeting on September 14th. The Stewardship Campaign will run in October. The obligation is short-term (September through January):

- September – decide on the theme and the elements of the campaign and design the materials.
- October - organize the mailing of materials and the Stewardship Presentations.
- November - reviewing the pledges, follow-up with requests, and send thank-you notes.
- December and January – send reminders about completing 2020 pledges and send thank you notes for the 2021 pledges.

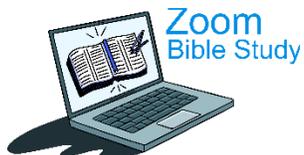
This is an exciting time to serve on the committee. Like all churches we are breaking new ground in learning how to design a Stewardship Campaign using new technologies and finding new ways to bring people together. All of us need to make a special commitment to Trinity for 2021 - not just financially but also in giving of our time and talent so that our community thrives during this time--and so that we can show potential candidates that we are thriving even with the challenges we face.

One of the ways that we prepare for a new ministry with our next Rector is to have a successful Stewardship campaign and an active Stewardship Team. One of the greatest gifts we can present to a new Rector is the groundwork for ongoing Stewardship education and commitment. If you are interested or if you have questions please speak to Mother Judith, Ginny Starkis, or Susan Edmondson.

Again, thank you to all for helping to keep Trinity a parish we are proud to be part of. Milford Trinity rocks, and it is because of all of you and your ongoing devotion.

Mother Judith Lee, Interim Priest
Ginny Starkis, Senior Warden
Susan Edmondson, Junior Warden

BIBLE STUDY: FALL 2020



We will continue with our **Fridays Lunch and Discussion at noon**. Our topic will be Women in the Bible. We will meet for 10 weeks. On the first five Fridays we will discuss women from Hebrew Scripture, and on the second five Fridays we will discuss women from the Gospels. The scripture passages will be sent out before our meetings. Our

discussions will draw primarily from 2 books: *WomanWord* by Miriam Therese Winter (3 volumes) and *Soul Sisters* by Edwina Gately.

Date	Subject
<i>Hebrew Scripture</i>	
September 18	Sarah and Hagar
September 25	Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel
October 2	Hannah
October 9	Deborah and Judith
October 16	Ruth and Naomi
<i>Gospel Women</i>	
October 23	Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna
October 30	Martha and Mary of Bethany
November 6	The Samaritan Woman at the Well and The Woman Taken in Adultery
November 13	The Infirm Woman and The Woman with a Hemorrhage
November 20	Mary Magdalene

This schedule allows us to wait until the uncertainties about the fall are settled and to finish before Advent, when we will schedule a different set of readings.

SACRED GROUND

Sacred Ground is a film-based dialog on race and faith developed by the Episcopal Church. The program provides resources including the works of filmmakers, writers and race dialog practitioners. The materials are meant to stimulate conversations. These important conversations, accompanied by deep and respectful listening will help us to engage across a range of divides. We invite people with a diversity of experiences and backgrounds to participate. We will share our stories and learn together. Hopefully we will build deeper relationships and emerge with new stories for ourselves and a new future that includes equity and more diversity, including different ways of thinking about shared issues and concerns. Race and faith are complicated topics and these conversations may be very challenging. But with prayerful discernment privately and collectively the Holy Spirit may lead us to the formation of interracial dialog circles. Being willing to be vulnerable and open may help this to be a humble and transformative process.

The curriculum is flexible. Trinity will cover the cost of the 2 required books; all other materials are available online at no cost to registered participants. information is available at <https://episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground> .

Once you register with Mother Judith you will receive the password that will give you access to the curriculum materials.

There are a total of 10 sessions. Our plan is to do the first 5 from the end of September through to Thanksgiving week and then resume for the second set of 5 starting in January.

All meetings will be on zoom. Each session will be held twice per week. You do not need to attend both. We will meet every other week. The schedule will be:

1. Sunday, Sept. 27 & Tuesday, Sept. 29
2. Sunday, Oct. 11 & Tuesday, Oct. 13
3. Sunday, Oct. 25 & Tuesday, Oct. 27
4. Sunday, Nov. 8 & Tuesday, Nov. 10
5. Sunday, Nov. 22 & Tuesday, Nov. 24

The Sunday session will be 5 to 6:30 pm and the Tuesday session will be 7 to 8:30 pm.

Preparation for each session will require about 1 ½ to 2 hours of watching films and reading. The first step is to register with Mother Judith. We are hoping people will make the commitment to participate in all 10 sessions. We assume people will sign up for one session or the other, but we may intermingle the groups. Mother Judith has had conversations with other faith leaders and we may have participants from several different churches.

Included here is part of the prayer found on the website by one of the members of the team that collaborated on the resources.

"...If we enter the sacred ground of the labyrinth to walk back in time, see markers along the highway showing where we went astray, ask the questions of our history, be humble students of our past, acknowledge the harms done and the harms endured - if we can do these things, then God willing, we can eventually come to some centered spot, take stock, see, sense, feel, mourn, pray, and then turn and walk back out, together."

May we grow in wisdom, strength, courage and wholeness.
Mary Johnson

ONE ALL-IMPORTANT WORD

Sometimes one word makes all the difference. In John 14:16, when Jesus promises the disciples that God will send the Holy Spirit, he doesn't say "the" Helper or "a" Helper but "another" Helper. For there to be "another" of something, we must already be familiar with a first of that thing. Jesus has been, for the disciples, their first Helper. They already "know him for he dwells with [them]" (verse 17, ESV).

When my infant son was to start full-time daycare, the transition went quite smoothly. That's because his "new" caregiver wasn't new at all: She was Grandma! The sense that my son would be in the hands of *another* family member he already knew eased the handoff for Mama and baby alike.

Not all parents have access to that type of situation, but the caregiving arrangement Jesus provided his disciples is available to all. Even when Jesus is no longer physically with us, another who loves us just as much — another we already know and whose truth we've seen in Jesus — is here. We're in good hands.

—Heidi Mann

LABORS OF LOVE



Thomas Merton, an American monk, writer and social activist, said, “It is in the ordinary duties and labors of life that the Christian can and should develop his spiritual union with God.” As the United States observes Labor Day, may we find meaning not simply in marking summer’s end but in celebrating the ways nearly all “duties and labors of life” can empower ministry and faith.

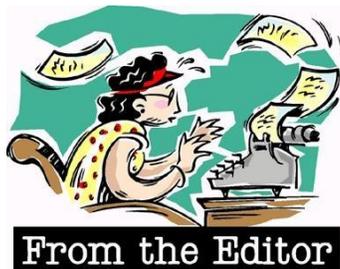
Whether as a dentist, parent, artist, teacher, mechanic, gardener, city councilor, farmer, day laborer, attorney or anything else, a Christian can begin each workday or shift by praying for opportunities to serve whoever they’ll encounter.

We also can pray for and seek ways to grow in “spiritual union with God”: cultivating spiritual fruits; actively loving God and neighbor; seeing Jesus in the vulnerable; practicing humility, gratitude and praise.



Just a reminder that the deadline for submissions for the October edition of *The Trinitarian* is **September 15th**. Please honor this deadline.

Content that is submitted late may not make it into the newsletter. All articles should be sent to: news@trinitychurchmilford.org.



Here we are approaching autumn. The summer has been a blur, and the pandemic forces many of us to stay home. The days run into each other and sometimes it is difficult to remember what day it is. I am happy that things are improving somewhat here in Massachusetts, allowing shops and restaurants and other businesses to re-open. Not only is it a boost to the economy, but it’s a boost to the spirit to see the return of things we used to take for granted. I certainly don’t do that much anymore. Life is a gift, and every day is precious. Savor every moment if you can. Peace to all of you.

Elizabeth Kfisiewicz, Editor
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TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Worship Schedule	Wednesday, 9am Saturday, 5pm Sunday, 8am and 10am

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