



THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Trinitarian

February 2021

A REFLECTION FROM YOUR INTERIM PRIEST

*Listen to the long stillness:
New life is stirring
New dreams are on the wing
New hopes are being readied:
Humankind is fashioning a new heart.
Humankind is forging a new mind.
God is at work.
This is the season of Promise – Howard Thurman*

These words of Howard Thurman describe the new phase of Trinity's journey that begins in February, when the Vestry will approve the Parish Profile and send it to the Bishop. As the Profile Committee completes its work, the Search Committee begins to meet in order to prepare questions for candidates and to share their hopes and expectations based upon the parish meetings held during the past year. Everything they do is confidential. At this point in our journey, two paths diverge. While the Search Committee discerns the gifts that candidates bring to Trinity, the congregation prepares for new ministry in three ways: by clearing spaces, by continuing to build our ministries, and by strengthening our relationships with each other.

February begins a season of watching and listening, a season of remembering what has always been most important to us, a season of imagining new ways to share the mysterious and unfailing love of God that has always sustained this community.

In February, we also begin our journey beyond the pandemic. Although we will continue to follow public health protocols and we do not know when we will again gather in person for worship and fellowship, we have every reason to expect that the current season of solitude and separation is coming to an end. In a strange way, let us cherish every moment of this "in-between time" as together we *fashion a new heart and forge a new mind*.

*God is at work.
This is the season of Promise.*

Mother Judith+

DURING THIS TIME – FEBRUARY

Because of a security breach (a “Zoom bombing”) during Sunday worship in December, the links and passwords to Zoom meetings will be found only in the reminder emails sent to the parish. If you invite friends to a particular service, please let Mother Judith know so that we can welcome them.

We will continue to have the opportunity to receive Holy Communion every week in the church between 10 & 11:30 on Sunday mornings. Because of the increase in COVID cases, Mother Judith has suspended home communions until warmer weather.

On one Sunday each month, we will have a service of Holy Communion at 9 am on Zoom, and you will be able to share in communion at home with consecrated wafers that you have picked up at the church or that Mother Judith has brought to your home.

February 7th will be Communion Sunday.

The opportunity to share Holy Communion on Zoom requires that each of us set aside a small space at home for the consecrated wafer. Battery-powered votive candles will be blessed and given to each household to be placed next to the host, wherever it may be—for example on a mantle, a bedside table, or a bookcase.

On the first Sunday of every month our youth and children will be our readers.

On the third Sunday of each month the Vestry will be our readers and the Wardens will lead a discussion after the service.

Sunday School will continue on Zoom beginning at 9:45 on Sundays, and Youth Group will meet on Zoom on first Sundays at 7 pm.

Sundays in February:

- February 7th** Candlemas: We will bless candles for your homes
9 am Holy Communion on Zoom: Family Service
7 pm Youth Group on Zoom
- February 14th:** Valentine’s Day & Presidents Day Weekend:
Prayers for our nation and in thanksgiving for the Love of God
5 pm *Sacred Ground* #9
- February 21st** The First Sunday in Lent: Prayers of Repentance
4 pm – First Lenten book discussion: Introduction & Chapter 1
5:30pm – *Sacred Ground* Session #10
- February 28th** The Second Sunday in Lent
4 pm – 2nd Lenten book discussion – Chapters 2 & 3

How are we Preparing for New Ministry?

- ✓ The Profile Committee is writing the Parish Profile, to be presented to the Vestry in February 2021 and at the Interim Ministries Conference in March.
- ✓ We will continue our Grab-n-Go meals along with a “Meal in a Bag” of groceries through the winter.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



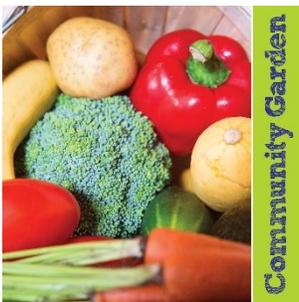
Happy New Year from Trinity Church School! Here is a little recap from our year so far. Although it's been a very different year, we have not skipped a beat in church school! We have been able to get together as a community each Sunday, focusing on a specific Bible story and doing a short activity. Our new curriculum from "Gocurriculum.com" provides an entertaining, engaging, and interactive video introduction to a Bible story each week. These videos have inspired discussion and provided the basis for a short activity. On the first Sunday of each month, we have joined the rest of the congregation in the Morning Prayer. Mother Judith has incorporated the youth into these Youth Sundays and I am so proud of the reading and participation from each youth! Our most recent Sunday was of course Epiphany Sunday with our fun pageant!

We look forward to learning with each other and in our families during the next season of the church year, Lent. Stay tuned for an inter-generational game of *Lentopoly* that we can all play from our homes! During this game, we will focus on praying, giving, and fasting (this doesn't always mean from food) and giving. We hope to have some fun and learn a lot!

If your child has not yet joined us, please consider giving church school a try! The great thing about Zoom church school is that if you prefer to just kind of watch and listen, you certainly can! Please reach out to me at rcarp76@gmail.com with any questions or ideas!

Rachel Carpenter
Sunday School Coordinator

ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE EPHESIANS 3:17



I like to let my mind wander in the winter to memories of lush gardens. I miss the beauty of flowers in the yard and the abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables at the farm stands. I think of all the amazing gardens I have visited when we used to have the luxury of traveling. So, when I saw something in an email from the Diocese about Good News Gardens, my interest was piqued. I joined the first Zoom meeting they had. I have also gone to the website episcopalchurch.org/good-news-gardens. I like their motto: *Join the movement - Plant, Pray, and Proclaim!* The idea originated at Plainsong Farm, and then was modified and embraced by the Episcopal Church's Evangelism and Creation Care Teams. I learned this from the Diocesan website: "We will bring the Good News Gardens movement to Western Massachusetts. This program practices the love of Christ and will equip Episcopal churches across our diocese and all of their members to 1) grow and give healthy food; 2) reflect on connections between scripture, faith, food and gardening; and 3) learn about and influence food systems and policies that affect society as a whole. Grace Church in the Berkshires is already modeling through Gideon's Garden how growing and giving healthy food

can transform lives. We will collaborate with area partners to spread the good news through gardening."

In addition to learning about Good News Gardens, I learned about a book by Anna Woofenden, *This is God's Table: Finding the Church Beyond the Walls*. I am reading it and have joined an on-line book discussion group with folks from throughout the diocese. The two groups are separate but overlap. Many people in the book group are very concerned with caring for creation. Many want to help by feeding the hungry. We talked about wanting to serve alongside people, growing food for mutual distribution rather than a hand out. I believe Anna Woofenden learned and received as much from the people who attended her church as they received from her.

I heard Anna speak at that first Zoom meeting about Good News Gardens. My passion for this project is growing. Mother Judith and I talked about the book and the goals of the movement. Mother Judith was enthusiastic. She had been thoughtfully pursuing a germ of an idea around growing food as part of our service to the community during Lent, something in the vein of a community garden. Instead of thinking of the idea of a community garden as one big plot of land, we started to think about container gardens scattered throughout our community. We plan to host a Good News Nursery in the spring. We will give out a variety of seedlings to members of our Trinity congregation and to our guests at the community dinners, as well as folks who want to collaborate with us. People can take a seedling or two home, nurture them, allow them to grow in a container at their homes, and then bring the produce back to share with all. Give what you have, take what you need. Charlie and I intend to grow some of the seedlings to give away. I am also going to approach some nurseries in the area to see if they would be interested in donating a flat or two. Also, anyone who is interested could plant a few seeds at home and bring the seedlings to Trinity for curbside pick-up in the spring. We could give out information on gardening and supply some bigger containers as the plants increase in size. This is something that could develop into an abundant and fulfilling ministry at Trinity. I paraphrase the prayer from Ephesians 3: 16 to 19: God gives to us out of His glorious riches; we, being rooted and grounded in love, will all be able to take in the extravagant dimensions of God's love!

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Johnson

THE GIFT BASKETS REVIEW FROM THE CHRISTMAS FAIR



I gave two of the soup baskets from the Fair away as Christmas presents this year. Both people who were the recipients gushed with praise and compliments on how beautiful they were, how abundantly full they were, how thoughtfully put together they were and what a stunning presentation they made. I want to pass on this praise and the compliments to the folks that put the baskets together. Well done!

Mary Johnson

MUSICAL NOTES FROM THE PARISH ORGANIST

From the
ORGANIST



Congregational Singing

Music in worship services can be placed into three basic categories: preludes and postludes, choir accompaniments, and hymns and responses for congregational singing. The most important of these is playing for congregational singing, especially hymns. However, musical responses sung by the congregation play a significant role as well. Some musical responses can raise deep emotional feelings in a worshipper. In one case, a member of the congregation mentioned to me that a service is never quite complete for her without a particular musical response, again showing the importance of all of the music in the service.

For the parish organist, little compares to the excitement and thrill of playing a hymn. Hearing the enthusiasm of the congregation, choir, and clergy expressed through the singing of hymns has few equals. It is, however, important for the organist to be sensitive to the text of the hymn and match the playing to that text. I also like to add the occasional free accompaniment. A free accompaniment changes the familiar harmonies and sometimes even the soprano line in the hymn creating a variation to what is best known. On occasion, a descant, which is a melody above the traditional melody usually sung by choir members, adds another level of interest to a hymn. The last change I like to make is creating a short interlude before the last verse and then transitioning into a higher key. This adds a new degree of excitement to the final verse and clearly gives new energy to the singing. There is no other responsibility for an organist (and organ) than to effectively accompany hymns.

Randy Bloom

ROMEOS LUNCHEONS



The ROMEOS lunch group will meet on Zoom at 12:30 on Friday, **February 5th, 2021**. 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, February 3rd. ROMEOS 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.

FEBRUARY 7TH - CELEBRATION OF CANDLEMAS

On February 7th we will observe the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord (transferred from February 2nd). This feast is also called Candlemas, a day for a candlelight procession and the blessing of candles that dates from the 11th century. Forty days after the Christmas, it marks the midpoint between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. On February 7th we will pray for God's blessing on our homes and we will give a battery-powered candle to every household with a consecrated host in preparation for Holy Eucharist on Zoom at 9 am.



JANUARY MEETING SUMMARY

Finance Committee	<p>The 2021 budget was approved.</p> <p>A fund-raising committee was approved for the upcoming year.</p>
Warden's Report	<p>The slate of new officers and vestry members was presented to the vestry.</p> <p>The Annual Parish Meeting will be via Zoom and last about an hour.</p> <p>Annual reports will be sent out on January 25.</p> <p>An online voting rehearsal will take place after church on January 24.</p>
Profile Committee	<p>Wayne Stochaj, vestry liaison to the Profile Committee, reported that the profile is essentially complete. It will be presented to the parish at the annual meeting. It needs to be approved by the vestry and the Bishop.</p>
Mother Judith's Report	<p>Letters of understanding for Randy Bloom, Minister of Music, and Rachel Carpenter, Sunday School Coordinator, were approved.</p>

NewsLetter **DEADLINE**

Just a reminder that the deadline for submissions for the March edition of *The Trinitarian* is February 15th. Content that is submitted late may not make it into the newsletter but can be included in the weekly email blast. All articles should be sent to: news@trinitychurchmilford.org.



From the Editor

We got past the holidays and sailed into January. But it's been no easy cruise! The happenings in Washington DC of just a few weeks ago are heart-breaking and make me both sad and furious. So far from the action, there is little I can do except pray for positive change. But on a local level, there is much we can do. Let's not follow in the footsteps of violence, mistrust, and hatred. Instead, let's sow love and peace in our own lives. For surely it will spread outward and create larger changes.

Elizabeth Kfisiewicz, Editor
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