



THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Trinitarian

January 2021

A REFLECTION FROM YOUR INTERIM PRIEST

³⁴Mary said to the angel, *'How can this be? . . . let it be with me according to your word.'*
[Luke 1:34, 38]

Aren't there annunciations / of one sort or another / in most lives? [Denise Levertov]

The story of Gabriel's visit to Mary might be one of the first stories we learn in our Christian childhood. It is at the center of my own spiritual life. I return to it when I face a decision or when my path seems too predictable. I admit that I am more likely to ask *How can this be* in self-pity than in wonder, and I am more likely to demand a map and provisions for the journey than to trust that I will learn what I need to know when I need to know it.

This story has different meanings for all of us at different times. This year, the poem "Annunciation" by Denise Levertov has made me wonder if the pandemic can be an "annunciation" that opens up possibilities for a new life that we would never have imagined. Here is an excerpt:

. . .

*But we are told of meek obedience. No one mentions
courage.*

*The engendering Spirit
did not enter her without consent.*

God waited.

*She was free
to accept or to refuse, choice
Integral to humanness.*

*Aren't there annunciations
of one sort or another
in most lives?*

*Some unwillingly
undertake great destinies,
enact them in sullen pride,
uncomprehending.*

*More often
those moments*

*when roads of light and storm
open from darkness in a man or woman,
are turned away from
in dread, in a wave of weakness, in despair and with relief.
Ordinary lives continue.
God does not smite them.
but the gates close, the pathway vanishes. . . .*

- Denise Levertov, "Annunciation" *The Stream and the Sapphire*. pp. 59- 61

2020 has certainly been a *moment when roads of light and storm/open[ed] from darkness*. We would not have chosen to go through what we have experienced this year, but we are *free to accept or refuse* the paths that are open before us. Your resilience and ingenuity have shown the brightness of hope. Your readiness to pivot to online ministry offers a glimpse into the kind of community that God is calling you to become. The joy you have found in seeing each other on Zoom and talking to each from a distance is a gift of grace.

2021 will be an extraordinary year in the history of Trinity. May we have the courage to welcome *the engendering Spirit*. May we, together, trust as deeply as did Mary in God's promise of new life.

God waits.

Mother Judith+

DURING THIS TIME – JANUARY 2021

Worship:

Our service of Morning Prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays will continue on Zoom and our Zoom meditation will continue on Mondays at 7:15am.

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 a friend to any service, please let Mother Judith know.

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-19 cases and because she has been visiting the hospital, Mother Judith has suspended home communions until at least February.

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. **January 10th will be Communion Sunday.**

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.

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Zoom on January 31st at 9 am. We will introduce you to the mechanics of voting and discussion after the service on Sunday January 24th.

Sundays in January:

January 3rd	Epiphany Sunday: A Christmas Pageant on Zoom @ 9 am Youth Group on Zoom @ 7pm
January 10th:	The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord: Holy Communion Sacred Ground on Zoom @5-6:30 pm
January 17th:	Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend: Prayers for Social Justice Sacred Ground on Zoom @ 5-6:30
January 24th	Practice for voting & discussion at the Annual Meeting
January 31st	Annual Parish Meeting on Zoom @ 9 am Sacred Ground on Zoom @ 5-6:30 pm

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 national Interim Ministries Conference in March. We remain on schedule for your new Rector to begin in the summer or fall of 2021.
- ✓ At our Annual Parish Meeting we will review the tasks to be completed before your new Rector arrives, and at their February meeting the Vestry will set priorities for the year.
- ✓ We are continuing to enhance our virtual worship in preparation to include everyone when we worship in person.

Mission and Ministry:

We will continue our Grab-n-Go meals along with a “Meal in a Bag” of groceries on Thursdays through the winter. We will prepare takeout meals in Trinity’s kitchen on the last Thursday of each month and will purchase meals from local restaurants on the other weeks. We have received many private donations in addition to grants from the Milford Lions Club and the Greater Milford Health Network, and we continue to work in partnership with local churches and the Pathway to a Better Life to provide clothing, shelter, and laundry supplies to our neighbors.

Mother Judith+



LAUNDRY LOVE

What's new with Laundry Love? Due to Corona, we are not visiting with folks at the laundromat. However, we know people still need clean clothes. We have adapted the program for the time being. We are collaborating with Lisa Trusas from the Milford Police Department.

Lisa has been given pre-made packages that have soap pods, dryer sheets, a clean plastic bag to be used as a clean laundry bag and a roll of quarters. Lisa is giving the laundry supplies to folks dealing with recovery as well as outreach to homeless people in several surrounding towns. We have a sufficient quantity of supplies right now as Fr. Mac provided us with a huge supply before he left. And for months we were not doing L.L. In the future I will let you know

when we could use more donations. I am hopeful that Laundry Love will continue to be included in the budget going into the next year. It is a simple way to show our Trinity compassion to those in need.

Mary Johnson

BIBLE STUDY



Fridays @ Noon on Zoom January 2021

The twelve men who were Jesus' first followers were a motley crew. They are described in the gospels as ordinary men who stumbled and fumbled their way along the path to which Jesus called them. We may feel we have known some of them for most of our lives: Peter, John, Matthew, and Judas Iscariot. Some have briefer stories: Philip, Thomas, and Andrew. Others we know only by name: James son of Zebedee; James son of Alpheus; Bartholomew, Thaddeus, Simon the Zealot.

In January, we will have a 4-week study on Jesus' apostles. We will begin by looking at the different ways in which the apostles were called and how they were commissioned. We will learn the traditional stories about the lesser-known members of the group. Then we will read the stories about Peter and John, ending with a discussion of the three who are best known for their missionary travels: Philip, Thomas, and James.

January 8 th	The Calling of the Twelve (starting at 11:30am)
January 15 th	Simon Peter
January 22 nd	John the Beloved Disciple
January 29 th	Philip, Thomas, & James the son of Zebedee



ROMEOS LUNCHEONS

The ROMEOS lunch group will meet on Zoom at 12:30 on Friday, **January 8, 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, January 6. 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.



SACRED GROUND: SESSIONS 6-10

Our Sacred Ground dialogue will continue in January and February. Each session will continue to meet on Sundays and Tuesdays. However, the 2 schedules will differ so that we will complete the Sunday meetings in time to have a 4-week Sunday Lenten Program:

Sundays: January 10, 17, 31; February 14 & 21 @ 5- 6:30 PM

**Tuesdays: January 12 & 26; February 9 & 23; March 9
@ 7 – 8:30 PM**

The discussion in this second half of the program will focus on the multi-generational psychological, economic, and political legacies of racism for the descendants of both slaveholders and slaves. These include blurring differences within communities of color, creating divisions within White America, and ignoring systemic exclusion from the opportunities represented by the American Dream. The final session will address the question that comes up often in our conversations: What can we *do* to address the racial injustice we can no longer ignore? What are the steps to become a Beloved Community?

Preparation for each session involves about 90 minutes of reading and viewing videos. Please contact Mary Johnson or Mother Judith if you have any questions or concerns.

YOUTH GROUP



Our next meeting: January 3rd @ 7 PM on Zoom

Game Night & and Mission Planning

Be sure to have 2 devices so that you can access the games.

Mission Project: Prepare and distribute takeout lunches on January 18th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Discussion of Mission Project for February:

The 30-Hour Famine

For more information contact Sarah Prevelige.

PROFILE COMMITTEE REPORT

Profile Committee: Leigh Martin, Chair; David Clinkman, Wayne Stochaj, Mary Beth Sweet, and Peach Warren

In November, the Profile Committee concluded the profile focus groups that took place throughout October. We thank everyone who took part in focus groups, engaged in discussion with us, and provided us with input. In weekly Zoom meetings, the Profile Committee has been working on compiling and interpreting these responses, researching, and noting areas of further development to help develop the Parish Profile, and updating areas of the Trinity Church website. Our aim is to accurately represent who we are as a parish, what our community is like, and what we are seeking in a rector by capturing Trinity's unique personality, mission, and ministry.

We are currently awaiting year-end financial data to include up-to-date and accurate congregational financial information in our Profile. The Vestry reviewed our first draft at its recent December meeting, and the Profile Committee anticipates entering the final stages of production by sharing our work with the congregation at the Annual Parish Meeting on January

31, 2021 and submitting to the Vestry for approval. We are grateful for your support and welcome questions or comments to our email address, profilecommittee@trinitychurch.org.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge God, and God will make straight your paths. – Proverbs 3:5-6

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



**Time and Date: Sunday January 31, 2021
9 am on Zoom**

Agenda:

- Election of Officers for 2021
- Presentation of the 2021 Budget
- Preview of the Parish Profile
- Preparations for New Ministry
- Appreciation for the leadership of 2020

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

– Proverbs 3:5-6

CREATION CARE: TIP OF THE MONTH



In this season of long nights and short days, it's tempting to keep on more lights than we need, and to let the furnace – rather than a cozy blanket or wood fire—keep us warm. If we see electric light as something to *use* rather than to *have*, we will turn off the lights when a room is empty. Choose a favorite afghan or blanket and turn the heat down 4-5 degrees. Let the winter sunlight will brighten your home.



DECEMBER MEETING SUMMARY

Finance Committee	<p>Building and Property is looking into upgrading the filter on the furnace.</p> <p>The relief valve on the dishwasher that caused a messy leak has been replaced.</p> <p>The heat in the living room of the rectory is still not working. The oil company is coming to evaluate again this week.</p> <p>Christmas Fair income is estimated to be \$7,000-\$7,500.</p>
Stewardship Campaign	<p>Kevin Keppler, Stewardship Chair, reported that as of December 14th we are at \$150,120 which is 82% of our pledge goal with 81 pledges. The second letters went out last week.</p>
Warden's Report	<p>The Vestry approved the renewals of diocesan licenses for Eucharistic Visitors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Worship Leaders for 2021.</p> <p>The Annual Meeting will be held on January 31st. Planning is underway. We need a system for voting remotely, a process for submission/distribution of Annual Reports, and accommodations for members who do not usually use their computers for worship.</p> <p>We will invite the Bishop to speak to us. The focus of the meeting will be "Preparing for New Ministry". It will be an opportunity to share with the congregation what needs to be accomplished and to give thanks for work done in the past year.</p> <p>We need to fill the positions of Senior and Junior Warden and several Vestry slots. The new Vestry and Wardens will select the new Rector and will be his/her closest advisors and support as he/she begins a ministry with us.</p>
Mission Committee	<p>The Mission Committee has disbursed \$900 this year: \$500 to Daily Bread Food Pantry and \$400 to the Grab 'n Go meals. The "virtual" Jesse Tree was a big success – we had to limit donations because so many people were enthusiastic about participating. Gifts will be distributed on Sunday December 20th.</p>
Technology Enhancement for Virtual Worship	<p>The technology team met with Jim Cozzens from United Parish of Upton for advice on equipment and software to improve our current virtual worship and to livestream when we can return to worship in person. Wayne Stochaj is acquiring a new laptop for us and we will purchase a new microphone. We will be reimbursed up to \$2,000 from the Diocese for purchases to enhance virtual worship.</p>

<p>Profile Committee</p>	<p>Wayne Stochaj, Vestry Liaison to the Profile Committee, reported that the Profile is progressing nicely. The committee continues to meet weekly on Thursdays.</p> <p>There are three components of the Profile under construction: an infographic for candidates that is visual and concise with links to the Trinity website; a written document that sums up our congregation; the website itself. Mary Beth Sweet is doing most of the writing. Pictures have been gathered. The website is constantly checked to make sure all areas have been completed.</p> <p>Profile materials have been shared with Canon Rich Simpson for feedback. The goal is to have the Profile completed for the Office of Transition Ministry Conference in March that Canon Simpson will attend virtually with other diocesan placement officers.</p>
<p>Youth Ministry</p>	<p>The first meeting of high school youth has taken place. They will be doing a meal distribution on Martin Luther King Day. Their next meeting is on January 3rd. We hope youth will come to the activities even if they have not attended meetings.</p> <p>There is very low attendance at Sunday School. Inviting participation from other parishes has not proved successful. Mother Judith feels that children are all “Zoomed out” during the school week and not anxious to participate on Sundays. Children have been participating in readings on Sundays and they will be involved in the Christmas Eve service and in the Christmas Pageant on Epiphany Sunday, January 3rd.</p> <p>Many parish children were happy to volunteer to do the Facebook Live Christmas Fair raffle drawings.</p>
<p>Mother Judith’s Report</p>	<p>Mother Judith presented formal Letters of Understanding for our Sexton, Paul Del Molino, and Parish Secretary, Magee Lambert.</p> <p>No changes were made to the Sexton position this year. Magee’s job description was re-written in September to include bookkeeping tasks and regular website postings. Magee has done well taking on these new duties. The Vestry approved a 6% raise.</p> <p><i>What have we done well of late?</i></p> <p>Mother Judith’s handling of the Zoom bomb was amazing! The Blue Christmas services have been great. The Profile Committee’s work has been impressive. The virtual Christmas Fair was a big success. The Community Dinners have been extremely effective. Mary-Ellen Yaroshefski and Joan Campbell successfully pivoted the Jesse Tree effort.</p>

Stewardship has been working hard and their efforts have been impressive.

What could we have done better?

Buildings and Property needs to be more proactive and follow through more. Continued technical improvements to the sound and video quality of worship would be great.



Michael Ruggiero for plowing the church parking lot when it snows.

Dwight Kee and John Ellis for snow removal from the walkways at the church and the rectory.

John Ellis, Dwight Kee, and Paul Sweet for working to resolve the heating issues at the rectory.

Joan Campbell and Mary Ellen Yaroshefski for managing a highly successful virtual Jesse Tree and to everyone who donated gifts.

Dave Clinkman for providing music for Blue Christmas and Christmas Day.

Cheryl Eidinger-Taylor for teaching Magee our bookkeeping process.

Randy Bloom, Jeff Lukas, Cathy Poch, Kim Stochaj, Maddie Stochaj, and Emily Rose Maddock for the beautiful music for Christmas weekend.

Gayle Ruscitti, Mary Ellen Yaroshefski, Ann Marie Lockwood, Melanie Manoogian, Wayne Stochaj, Mother Judith, and everyone who worked on our virtual Christmas Fair to make it a success.

Elizabeth Klisiewicz for faithfully editing our monthly newsletter.

Mary Frances Best, Sis Hensel, the Jackson family, Aretha Liverpool, and Gayle Ruscitti for selling tickets for the Christmas Fair.

Rachel Carpenter, Malachi Carpenter, Sebastian Carpenter, Allison Kee, Emily Kee, Nathan Pirelli, Teagan Richards, Zoe Richards, Lauren Ruggiero, Landon Sweet, and St. Nicolas for presenting our St Nicolas Day pageant, *Good Morning, Trinity*.

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

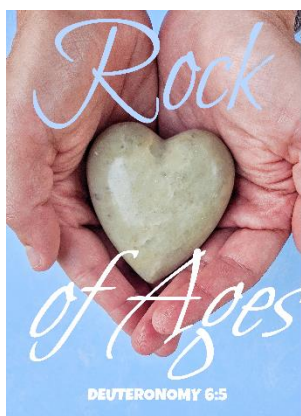
The Mission Committee has disbursed \$900 so far this year, \$500 to the Daily Bread Food Pantry and \$400 to the Grab-and-Go meals, and this was agreed upon by email in May as we could not meet in person. The committee will be making final disbursements before the end of December that will be included in the report for the Annual Meeting.

Jesse Tree - The Mission Committee would like to thank all the parishioners who helped with the Jesse Tree this year. As everyone has adapted to doing things differently this year, the Jesse Tree was no exception. The committee decided on using an online sign-up since we

would not be able to have tags on a tree, and also limited the number of gifts per recipient. Because of Board of Health guidelines, we had to have the gifts in much earlier than usual so they could be quarantined. Thank you to everyone who signed up to fulfill a gift request and for dropping them off by the December 5th 3pm deadline (and thank you to those that worked the day of the Christmas Fair who helped bring the gifts as they were dropped off down to the Mary Moore room). There were a total of six families helped this year by the Jesse Tree. Recipients picked up their gifts on December 20th.

Thank you again to Trinity's generous parishioners - you made this year's different Jesse Tree a success!

Trinity Mission Committee



On walks, I enjoy searching for heart-shaped rocks. One day in 2020, I spotted a broken heart, which seemed fitting as illness, racism and suffering dominated the headlines. I thought of Psalm 34:18, NIV: "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

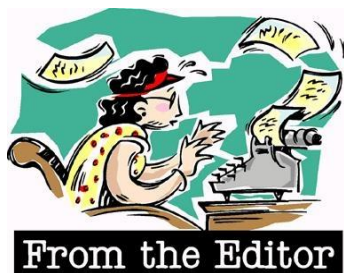
Humans can be hard-hearted — pointing fingers, assuming the worst and failing to extend compassion. We often reject people who look, think or act differently from us. All these things break hearts, including God's. Only with his help can we rise above hatred, learn to listen more than we speak, and express kindness, empathy and a willingness to learn.

Jesus, be our rock as we face life's brokenness. Stay near and start the healing. Amen.

—Julie Lee



Just a reminder that the deadline for submissions for the February edition of *The Trinitarian* is January 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.



I find myself writing this on a cold, gloomy December morning. I cannot speak for others, but with all that has happened across the globe, I find it more difficult to feel the holiday spirit. That said, besides my wonderful family, I do find the Christmas lights very cheerful! It seems especially important this year to discover these little pockets of holiday splendor. I do hope all of you are keeping well and I look forward to reconvening in person in 2021.

Elizabeth Kłisiewicz, Editor
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