



THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Trinitarian

March 2021

A REFLECTION FROM YOUR INTERIM PRIEST

*Sow for yourselves righteousness;
reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground.
For it is time to seek the LORD,
that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.* [Hosea 10:12]

With these words, the prophet Hosea reminds the people of Israel that God continues to guide their lives even though they have forgotten him. Hosea urges them to make their relationship with God the center of their lives: for there, and only there, will we find well-being.

There is hardly a better description of Lent. During these forty days, we resolve to do something different to restore our relationship with God, whatever that may mean to us at this moment in our lives. We give up comfort, and we give comfort; we minimize our own needs, and we are attentive to the needs of others.

During this holy season we hold ourselves accountable for the ways we need to turn our lives around. We don't do this because we are terrible people who have failed in various ways, but because by doing so we "break up the fallow ground" of our own hearts so that God "may come and rain righteousness" upon us.

When we admit to the ways in which we have hardened our hearts--whether by resentment, fear, or neglect—we begin the task of "tilling our soul's soil" and allow ourselves to become a "field" for God's ongoing creative work. For "the steadfast love" that we "reap" is God's, not our own.

Let this be the meditation by Steve Charleston that we share during Lent;

Each day the exchange is made: the Spirit offers me another day; and in return asks only that I make the most of it. The gift of life, of being with those I love, of seeing the sky and feeling the wind, of thinking and creating and being—all of this is freely exchanged for the promise within my soul, the possibility of great thoughts and caring actions, the ability to love and the capability of change, if only I make the effort to meet the Spirit halfway.

From Ladder to the Light p. 36

Mother Judith+

DURING THIS TIME – MARCH 2021

Worship:

We will continue to have the opportunity to receive Holy Communion every week in the church between 10-11:30 on Sunday mornings. 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.

March 14th will be Communion Sunday.

The opportunity to share Holy Communion on Zoom requires that each of us set aside a small space in our homes for the consecrated host. Battery-powered votive candles are available from the church and will be delivered to homes upon request.

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

Bishop's Visitation: March 14th: Bishop Fisher will preside and preach at the service of Holy Eucharist at 9 am on Zoom and will meet with the Vestry on Zoom after the service.

Diocesan Confirmation Class: There will be a diocesan-wide class for those who wish to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church. The class will be held on Zoom beginning in mid-March and ending in mid-May, with an outdoor Confirmation in mid-June. Please see Mother Judith if you are interested in participating in the class. Watch for more information.

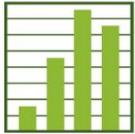
**Saturday March 27th Noon: Procession and Blessing of the Palms
A Covenant Service with St. Mary's with a Combined Choir**

Saturday April 3rd – Diocesan Online Worship: The Great Vigil of Easter

How are we preparing for New Ministry?

- ✓ The Vestry approved the Profile on February 8th and Canon Simpson will present Trinity at the Transition Ministry conference on March 8th-10th.
- ✓ The Search Committee has begun meeting to prepare interview questions for candidates beginning in April.

We will continue our weekly Grab-n-Go meals along with a "Meal in a Bag" of groceries through the winter. Thanks to your generosity we have funding to continue this weekly program through the spring.



Sr. Warden's
Report

As I write this, I sit in my kitchen, watching the snow coming down, Valentine's Day decorations just down and a few bits of green and shamrocks now scattered around the house. It is almost normal, except for the various masks scattered on the counter, in pockets, in my bag and always at the ready. I know it seems like an endless journey, but we do see signs that things do move forward.

So it is on our journey to a new rector. For the past several months, the Profile Committee worked to make sure Trinity could be shown for all. The Annual Meeting came, just as always, just a bit different on Zoom. Our Profile is out on our website for all to see, and I encourage you to take a look. It's a reminder that as much as we are challenged in what is not able to happen these days, there is so much more that shows what and who Trinity is and the activity we find to make sure that continues to happen. The work of the Search Committee now starts. In spite of the challenges we all face with COVID-19, things move forward. Work happens, progress is made and we are all still able to connect.

In addition to a presentation by the Profile Committee at the February 8th Vestry meeting, we also addressed the following:

- Mary Johnson presented a new Good News Nursery Ministry, and the vestry has approved and agreed our support to this new ministry. Look for more from Mary.
- The vestry approved the resolution of Justin Varteresian to be licensed as Worship Leader.
- There are many opportunities as we prepare for our new ministry. Designated coordinators are listed below; please look for ways you can help.
 - Preparing Space: Beth Moeller, Lisa Ruggiero, Sarah Prevelige
 - Building connections within the congregation: Sharon Manoogian, Cindi Scrimgeour and Beth Moeller
 - Technology for Worship: Ann Marie Lockwood and Wayne Stochaj
 - Update of our membership database: Joan Campbell and Steve Ketcham

With gratitude,

Beth Moeller

ROMEOS LUNCHEONS



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

GOOD NEWS GARDENS AT TRINITY



"I feel closer to God in the garden than I do in a building." Someone I love very much said that to me years ago. I knew what he meant. I do adore being able to worship in a building, with the structure and formality of sitting in a pew, listening to sacred music, being in community with God and the people of my church. My soul sings! But I also feel close to God when I am outside in nature. I am also able to worship God out of doors, with the sound and feel of wind. Whether I am near the ocean or climbing mountains, the peacefulness of nature can soothe

my soul. So, yes, I get the sentiment in "I feel closer to God in a garden."

I did not grow up gardening. I do remember we had a rhubarb patch that had been on the property years before my family moved in. I think strawberry-rhubarb jam will always be my favorite. As an adult, I learned about gardening little by little by living with a gardener for 35 years. I knew very little about composting then. Now, I get to witness old food scraps and garden waste become the rich mulch we call Black Gold. It's a miracle! I have learned how to work the soil well before you plant so that your carrots, beets, and potatoes can grow deeper into the soil. I have learned that getting sweaty and dirty is good for you and then, after your hard work you get to admire pretty flowers all summer long!

I want to help bring Good News Gardens to Trinity. Good News Gardens will give us access to gardening webinars with Farmer Educators, newsletters, and an opportunity to connect with other gardeners and share our wisdom and resources. Our job now is to start planning our gardens for the spring. At Trinity, we are not going to plant a garden in a set location; we are going to have little plots all over. We want to teach container gardening to people so they can grow small gardens at home. Something as small as a one-gallon water bottle could grow lettuce or herbs. Someone else may have room for a 2 ft x 4 ft container. You would be amazed at how much produce you can grow in a 2 ft x 4 ft space! We can also teach about gardening as a way of dealing with food insecurity. We plan to give out seedlings to members of our congregation and to people in the community so that anyone who wants to plant a container garden at home can get the help they need to get started. We can all get our hands dirty in an attempt to develop green thumbs. People can share the produce with friends, family, and/or exchange with each other at the community meals. We can have a *take as you need, leave as you have* veggie table. Not everyone is a gardener or wants to be one. But if you want to learn, then please contact Mary Johnson. The next webinar for Good News Gardens is March 9th at 5 pm. You can register at www.episcopalchurch.org/good-news-gardens.

Our task for now is to Pray, Plant, Proclaim, and share the Good News about the garden!

Mary Johnson

YOUTH GROUP



Next Meeting: Sunday March 7th @ 7 PM on Zoom

Our February Mission Project was the 30-Hour Famine on February 26th & 27th to raise money for World Vision global hunger programs. On March 7th we will plan our Mission Projects for March and April, and we'll share online games and end with a guided meditation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



We have continued to have Zoom church school classes each week this month. Through interactive videos and other activities, we have been learning about the many miracles of Jesus and how we can apply these lessons to our own lives. Several youth joined the parish virtual pancake supper as we prepared for Lent. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, families began to play "Lentopoly" at home with their families. This is a game that focuses on Praying, Fasting and Giving during the season of Lent. The youth in the parish are also working hard on contributing to the Heifer project by putting money in their ARK boxes. It has been a busy month for the church school and we look forward to brainstorming ways we might be able to

participate virtually in holy week and the festivities of Easter!

Rachel Carpenter

Sunday School Coordinator

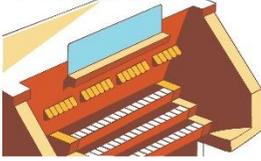


Attention all graduating high school seniors! Trinity GFS Scholarship applications are now being accepted! Each year, Trinity gives monetary awards to qualified members who are entering an institution of higher education. These awards recognize attendance and service to Trinity Parish during the applicant's high school years. Please go to our Trinity website (trinitychurchmilford.org). At the home page, click Resources-Scholarship -Trinity Episcopal Church GFS to download the form. The instructions are included and it only takes a few minutes to complete. All applications must be submitted by April 23, 2021.

Please contact us at gfs@trinitychurchmilford.org if you have any questions

THE ROLE OF THE PARISH ORGANIST

From the **ORGANIST**



Accompanying Anthems

A role of the organist (and organ) is accompanying anthems. This responsibility is somewhat different from playing hymns. Anthem accompaniments require the organist to be sensitive to what the composer intended with colorful registration, yet never overpowering the choir. With all ingredients coordinated, the composer's message in the anthem can be conveyed. Trinity's new organ with a wide range of sounds can accomplish this goal.

The Trinity Smith and Gilbert organ was designed to address the unique situation of the location of the choir in the chancel. Two sets of independent swell shades, one opening into the nave and the second opening into the chancel, create flexibility in how the organ can be heard. Closing the swell shades into the nave and opening the chancel shades allows the choir to hear the organ yet not over-powering the choir. Although different from playing for hymns, anthem accompaniments add another musical element to enhance worship.

Randy Bloom
Minister of Music

NewsLetter **DEADLINE**

Just a reminder that the deadline for submissions for the April edition of *The Trinitarian* is March 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

The winter seems to stretch on endlessly, much like the pandemic. Signs of hope are sprinkled in the news, but it seems like the bad news keeps coming. My soul longs desperately for spring, and even knowing it's just around the corner, this seems like the longest February on record. I have plans to travel late this spring, and I will be returning part time to my office in Hopkinton. And I am very excited to see what comes up in my garden, as well as the arrival of new plants at my home. Like my garden, I too am a work in progress, and I look forward to the challenges ahead. Be at peace!

Elizabeth Kfisiewicz, Editor
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Worship Schedule	Wednesday, 10am Sunday, 9am

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March 2021

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