



THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Trinitarian

July/August 2018

OUR CHURCH'S GENERAL CONVENTION

Between July 3 and July 14, Episcopalians from all over the nation – and the world - will gather in Austin, Texas to discuss and pass resolutions relating to the mission and ministry of our church. Convention occurs once every three years. I am privileged to have been elected as a clergy deputy from the Diocese of Western Massachusetts for this 79th triennial General Convention, so I will be part of the 11-person deputation representing our diocese.

The folks who will gather in Austin represent the 110 dioceses of the Church. Our church includes not only the United States, but other countries / regions: the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, Venezuela, the Virgin Islands, Navajo land, and the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe are all part of the wider church, so they all send deputies to General Convention. Each diocese can send a deputation of up to 4 lay deputies and 4 clergy deputies as well as the Bishop. Our diocese also pays for two alternate deputies to attend convention, one lay and one clergy. That way, if a deputy is unable to attend on any given day, we won't lose any of the votes we are entitled to.

So – what do all these people do for ten days? They work very hard! When I attended convention in Philadelphia in 1997, I worked behind the scenes as a volunteer for the full convention. I was incredibly impressed by the number and variety of vitally important and often controversial issues about which convention passed (or rejected) resolutions. This year there are more than 200 submitted resolutions that the legislative committees will deliberate on, often with the help of expert witnesses, before bringing them to the full convention for often heated discussion and a vote.

Deputies are assigned to committees, which meet during convention to hash out the details of resolutions that were written and submitted by committees, dioceses or individuals during the months leading up to convention. There are twenty-five committees which deliberate on issues ranging from prayer book / hymnal revision, church budget, evangelism and Christian formation to environmental stewardship, transgender rights, immigration and gun control. I have been assigned to the Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee keeps records of the number of deputies certified to vote for each legislative session, and before each session we record changes in deputations (often a deputy and an alternate trading roles or a deputy leaving or arriving during the GC). We also distribute tablets (iPads with all the Convention information – we are paperless) to all the Deputies.

The work of General Convention matters not only to church geeks, but to anyone who cares about the health and integrity of the Episcopal Church and about the difference TEC can make

as we try to transform this world (to paraphrase our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry) from the nightmare it often seems to be today to the dream God has for it.

There is much more information available on the convention website at:

www.generalconvention.org.

Blessings,

Fr. Mac



Parishioner Sharing

- Randy and Edla-Ann Bloom will host a garden and house tour on Sunday, June 24, from 2-4 at their home in Worcester. All parishioners are invited.

Treasurer's Report – Finance Committee

- **. Painting Contractor** – Painting of the church interior will begin the week of July 2
- **. Organ Update** – The current organ has been removed. Installation of the new organ will begin in early August.
- **. Organ Opening** – The removal of part of the wall and refinishing of the area is under way.
- **. Insulation** – Anchor will be hired.
- **. Rectory Repairs** – The deck drainage system is still in process. The woodpecker issue has not been resolved.
- **. Kitchen** – Dennis Laplante has looked at the area. We are awaiting further information from him.
- **. Treasurer-in-Training** – The FinCom and Vestry are working on identifying someone to become treasurer-in-training for a year and then take over as treasurer. We would welcome a volunteer.

Wardens' Report

- **Christian Education Committee** – The Christian Education Committee has met and identified areas that need to be addressed before the new school year in September. Particular concerns are the choice of curriculum and appropriate staffing.

Rector's Report

- **. Scholarships** - The vestry voted to give camp scholarships of \$100 each to four young parish members.

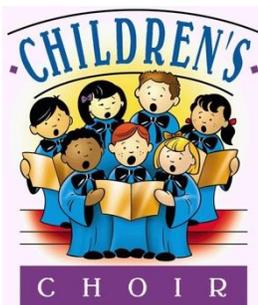
- . **Bible Challenge** - The Bible Challenge is under way. Discussion meetings take place weekly at 10:15 on Wednesdays after the 9:00 Eucharist and monthly on the second Sunday of the month at 5:00 with a simple supper.
- . **Renewal Works** - The vestry voted to participate in Renewal Works, a program to enhance and inform spiritual growth.
- . **Revival Team Members** - The Worcester corridor is looking for members to work on planning and preparation for the revival program and the visit of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry in October.
- . **Lay Preacher Candidates** - Fr. Mac is looking for parishioners who are interested in preaching and leading morning/evening prayer when he is away.
- . **Standing Committee Nominees** - There is an opening for a lay candidate for the Standing Committee of the diocese.
- . **Thank You** - To Brian O'Toole and his team for the landscaping and plantings; to John Cook for the mowing and trimming.
- . **Notes for Rev. Susan** - Fr. Mac is collecting notes for Rev. Susan that he will forward to her.

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Food Pantry - Don't forget the Daily Bread Food Pantry over the summer months. Baskets are in the Narthex for donations of food items, paper products, and health and beauty aids. Each month the church bulletin lists what we are collecting, but feel free to donate whatever item(s) you wish, it does not have to be what is listed in the bulletin.

Change the Babies - The collection for Change the Babies is year round! The canisters are located in various places around the church, so please feel free to drop spare change in. Every coin helps! Thank you.

- Trinity Mission Committee

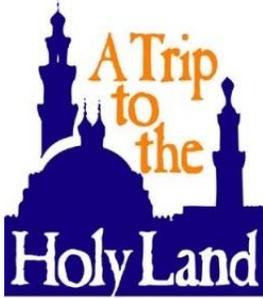


An informational packet will be distributed to all parents and children at the end of August regarding Trinity's Youth Choir for 2018-19.

Schedules, CDs of most music to be rehearsed/sung throughout the school year, and general info will be provided. All ages and abilities are welcome!

Following the September church-wide BBQ, all current Youth Choir members and their parents will enjoy bowling.

Jane, Liz, Beth



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Bishop Fisher – April 22 - May 4, 2019 – *only 4 spots left!*

Registration is now open for the Diocese of Western MA Pilgrimage to the Holy Land the day after Easter next year. Total cost is \$4,500 including round-trip airfare based on double occupancy. A deposit of \$500.00 per person will secure your place. A draft itinerary can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/WMApilgrimage>

Registration will close at 30 pilgrims or on January 21, 2019. If you have questions related to the itinerary or transportation, please contact the Rev. Jim Munroe at jamesgmunroe@gmail.com



The Blessing of the Backpacks will be held on Saturday, August 25th at our 5 pm service, and on Sunday, August 26th at the 8AM and 10AM services.

Please bring your backpack to have it blessed.

All are welcome.

WELCOME BACK BARBECUE

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 9th, when we will hold our annual Welcome Back BBQ. The festivities will begin after the 10AM service. Our friends from the Methodist Church will attend as well.

Please make sure you save the date for this event which is going to be filled with fun and fellowship.



If you are traveling and visit another church or parish, please let your newsletter editor (news@trinitychurchmilford.org) know, providing the name and location of the church, as well as the date(s) visited. We will share the list of places and churches visited in our September newsletter!

Also, when you visit another church while away, please bring a copy of the bulletin for Fr. Mac.

AMERICAN INDEPEDENCE

John Adams, who became America's second president, was so elated when the United States was about to celebrate independence from England that he wrote:

"It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward, forevermore."

HEALING MEALS

The freezer in the upper parish hall is full! Good news / Bad news.

The good news is that when there are leftovers from the Community Dinners, they are packaged up as "Healing Meals". So there are a lot of meals for people to grab, heat and eat. This can be for themselves, or to bring to a friend or a neighbor. This is good news.

The bad news is that much of the food in the freezer is not labeled. This makes it difficult to know what it is now that it is frozen and without a date, there is no way to know how long it has been in there. And if it has been in there too long, it should be removed. It is also kind of bad news that food is staying in the freezer long enough to get freezer burn. This is nourishing food, cooked and ready to heat and eat. People should be taking this food home more often.

So, we have a few choices. One is to have lots of people grab meals out of the freezer, take them home, defrost them, heat and eat. But do it soon. Two is to have the freezer cleaned out and things thrown out. I know of two volunteers willing and able to clean the freezer. *Soon.*

Going forward, there will be labels in the kitchen. Anything going in the freezer must have a label telling everyone what it is and the date you placed the food in the freezer. There will also be a sign on the freezer reminding people to take a meal to bring to a neighbor.

We are no longer planning on having Healing Meals Cooking parties because there is so much food in the freezer. If the cupboard should become bare we will readdress this topic.

—Mary Johnson

LAUNDRY LOVE REPORT

Laundry Love (local)

"a little effort, a big difference"

I saw this motto on the side of a truck on my commute one day. The phrase has stuck in my head. I think it stuck because it can easily apply to Laundry Love. It does not take very much effort to volunteer. And we do make a big difference to our clients.

At the June Laundry Love event at Double Bubble, one man who is “a regular” accepted his roll of quarters from our volunteer. When his laundry was all clean and folded he gave the quarters back and asked us to consider it a donation. A little while later a man and a woman came in who were newcomers so they had not heard about L.L. After I explained what L.L. is, the man said they did not need any help, but they were so impressed with the generosity of the idea that they wanted to make a donation. He gave me \$20. A lot of people really need the helping hand that Laundry Love provides. Others are moved by the concept. Either way we leave a big footprint!

Some of our volunteers work for an hour and a half, and some stay for the whole three hours. Some come once a month, some less, and some more often. We do have a solid core of volunteers, but we could use more help. We always work in teams, and the teams rotate. Everybody has very busy schedules and some travel often so it would be ideal if we had a few more people in the rotation. Please stop by one of the laundromats on L.L. night (every first Thursday at Double Bubble and every third Wednesday at EZ 5 pm to 8 pm). Stop by and we will show you how Laundry Love works.

Laundry Love (regional)

Laundry Love Regional Gathering held at Trinity Milford

More Than half of all Laundry Love Groups in Southern New England were represented at a L.L. regional gathering at Trinity. There are seven groups and four of them sent folks to our luncheon. We started out by playing Laundry Love BINGO as people signed in and mingled. Prizes for BINGO were laundry products. We had a make your own sandwich buffet with salad and dessert. As everyone ate their lunch, we took turn pulling questions written on slips of paper out of a top hat. Each person answered the question on the slip of paper and then everyone was welcome to add on their comments about the same topic. It was a great tool to create conversations. We asked, what has worked really well at your L.L. and what has been a struggle? Also, how do you recruit volunteers? Where does your funding come from? What motivates each person to spend time and energy on L.L? People told stories about people who they have met at Laundry Love that have left lasting memories.

Taunton Laundry Love has great involvement with the owners of the laundromat. They weigh out the clothes that clients bring in on scales and direct clients to which machines would be best for them. They have a lot of homeless clients. Hull L.L. is the smallest. They only have two volunteers. Their church is actually in Hingham, but they felt the need was greater in neighboring Hull. Worcester has a lot of resources to recruit volunteers as there are many colleges in Worcester. They provide pizza, home work help, prayer and arts and crafts for the kids.

All of the volunteers who attended (except Milford's) reported a sense of chaos at Laundry Love nights. Milford used to have that chaotic vibe. However, we stopped our philosophy of paying for as much laundry as people could bring in to the laundromat. We provide \$10 per adult. Our goal is to help with the cost of doing laundry, not washing everything and anything that people bring in. This has created a calmer atmosphere. This quieter atmosphere provides a better opportunity to build relationships with our clients.

At Milford L.L. we have tried serving food and beverage as folks do their laundry, as well as providing activities for kids. Each of these things seemed to add to the chaotic atmosphere. We have decided as a group that it is called "Laundry Love" so we will focus on Laundry.

Worcester L.L. brings the church into the laundromat. They have an ordained Minister at each event. They open and close with prayer. In Milford, we do not always have an ordained person present. Even so, I have had conversations with Fr. Mac about how the people who come to L.L are in a way a part of our Trinity family. We do pray for some of our clients when requested. Part of building a relationship with them is learning about upcoming surgeries, accidents and struggles as well as sharing the joys in their lives. There is one of the family that comes to L.L. that we now know three generations of this family. We know them better month to month and in turn they know us better month to month. I believe people experience the love of God through our human actions. Laundry Love is now an international program that is a decade and a half old. I am glad Milford is able to be a part of this organization.

—Mary Johnson

ROMEO'S LUNCHEON



The Romeo's group will meet for lunch on Friday, July 13th at 12:30, at Willowbrook Restaurant, Route 16, Mendon. Please contact Dave Clinkman at clinkman@comcast.net or 508-634-8996 by Wednesday, July 11th if you plan to attend, so we can make reservations.

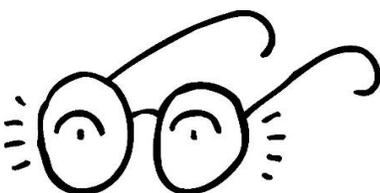
In August, Romeo's will meet at the Thai Pepper Restaurant on the corner of Routes 16 and 109 in Milford at 12:30 on Friday, August 3rd. Please contact Dave Clinkman by Wednesday, August 1st if you plan to attend. Romeo's is a social group for retired men and other men who wish to join us during their lunch hours.



Trinity Church serves free dinners in a clean, pleasant, and friendly environment. Anyone who is hungry or lonely is welcome. There are no eligibility requirements. All are welcome to come enjoy fellowship with a satisfying meal.

Our upcoming dinners will take place on July 25th, July 27th, and August 29th-31st. If you are interested in helping to prepare and serve the dinner, please contact communitymeal@trinitychurchmilford.org to serve in this meaningful mission.

EYEGGLASS RECYCLING



Trinity's participation in the Lions eyeglass recycling program continues. The current total of glasses collected by Trinity parishioners for people in need is 320. Anyone with eyeglasses, glasses cases, or gently used sunglasses that they no longer need can put them in the collection box near the piano in the parish hall. Thanks to all who have contributed so far!

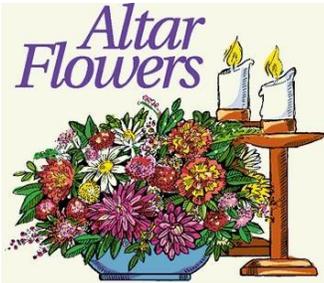


The latest version of our Trinity Calendar is now available seven days a week, 24 hours a day on our Trinity Church web site. Please visit www.trinitychurchmilford.org and click on the EVENTS tab at the top of the page! If you need a paper copy of the monthly calendar, please call or send an email to the church office. Thank you.

NewsLetter DEADLINE

Just a reminder that the deadline for submissions for the September edition of *The Trinitarian* is August 15th. All articles should be sent to: news@trinitychurchmilford.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS and SANCTUARY CANDLE



Throughout the year we offer the opportunity to dedicate Sunday altar flowers or the perpetually burning sanctuary candle in memory or in honor of a special occasion, anniversary, or loved one. Dedication text is printed in our leaflet insert.

Please note that options may be limited or unavailable on certain Sundays based on prior reservations or because flowers are used differently in different seasons of the church year (for example, we do not have flowers for most Sundays in the seasons of Advent and Lent).

We ask for the following donations:

\$40 for the Main Altar flowers (two arrangements)

\$10 for the Sanctuary Candle (burns for one week in the church)

If you are interested in a dedication please complete the form on the following page and either deliver it to the church office or put it in the offering plate.

If you have questions, you can contact the church office at 508-473-8464 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org.

Flowers on the altar are frequently available to be taken to homebound or hospitalized parishioners following the Sunday 10am service. If you are interested in taking the flowers, please come to the sacristy following the service.

Weekly Altar Flower or Sanctuary Candle Memorials

The flowers that adorn the altar each week and the Sanctuary Candle that burns throughout the week are provided through memorial donations given by parishioners in memory of a departed loved one, or in thanksgiving for a blessing. If you would like to make a memorial contribution, please complete this form and return it to the church office with your donation. Additional forms are always available in the Parish Hall.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Date of Remembrance: _____ / _____
(month) (day)

Exact wording of memorial will be:

- Flowers at the altar this week are given to the Glory of God...
- The Sanctuary Candle burns this week to the Glory of God...

If this gift is in memory of one who has died, choose the following wording ...

- in Loving Memory of _____
(Name of your loved one)

If this gift is a thanksgiving for a blessing or for a person who is living, choose the following wording ...

- in Thanksgiving for the Blessing of _____
(Name of person or blessing)

given by: _____
(Your name(s)--please use the exact wording you would like to have published. You may, for example, say something like "by his family" or "by her husband" followed by your name, or you may simply use your name(s), or leave it blank (anonymous))

Altar flowers are ordered by the Altar Guild. Please enclose a contribution to the Altar Flower / Candle Fund (suggested: \$40.00 for flowers, \$10 for Candle). Make checks payable to Trinity Church with a memo note "altar flowers" or "sanctuary candle".

Return this completed form, with donation attached, to the church office. Thank you.



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Email (Rev. Susan) rev.susan@trinitychurchmilford.org
Web www.trinitychurchmilford.org
Worship Schedule Wednesday, 9am
Saturday, 5pm
Sunday, 8am and 10am

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



From the Editor

In reading back through some past issues of our newsletter, I realized that I write an awful lot about the weather. Certainly, climate change and its devastating effects on our planet cannot be understated, and it's never far from my mind. God has asked us to be good shepherds of this fragile earth, our island home, and there are certainly many worthwhile efforts underway to preserve what is left. So this summer, as you set out on adventures near and far, try to be one of the good shepherds!

Peace to all.

Elizabeth Kfisiewicz

Editor

news@trinitychurchmilford.org