



THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Trinitarian

November 2018

MUSINGS FROM FR. MAC

Greetings all – I hope you will take a few minutes to read through this newsletter – we have a lot happening at Trinity! Pray about where you might feel called to help out – and let me know if you would like a suggestion or two!

Youth Group Meeting – Sunday, October 28th

Middle Schoolers will meet from 4-6 pm. There will be a joint dinner for both youth groups from 6-6:30 pm. Then the Senior High youths will meet from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Confirmation - Organizational Meeting on Sunday, November 4th from 11:30am – 1pm.

Our teen confirmation class, intended for all our teens (13-17) who have not yet had the opportunity to confirm for themselves the baptismal vows made for them by their parents and godparents, starts with an **organizational meeting on Sunday, November 4th from 11:30am – 1pm**. All teens are invited, and if you would like to participate but are unavailable on the 4th of November, please give me a call (508-473-8464) or send me an email at: fr.mac@trinitychurchmilford.org

RenewalWorks

We have embarked on a powerful new conversation. RenewalWorks will help us focus on our spiritual vitality, making spiritual growth a priority in our life and mission. By spiritual growth, I mean increasing in love of God and love of neighbor. You hear me say over and over how we are called to live into being God's Missionaries by living into the summary of the law, as Jesus gave it to us:

One of the scribes came near and asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:28-31

A decade of research exploring key characteristics of vital congregations and involving a great variety of churches provides the foundation for the RenewalWorks process. Along the way, that work has been adapted to better fit the traditions of The Episcopal Church.

We had a great response to the Spiritual Life Inventory (we had over 90 submissions)! Your input is providing the basis for the work of our Workshop Team. My prayer is that the RenewalWorks process will encourage, inspire, and challenge us on our spiritual journey and help us as we continue to grow in love of God and neighbor.

Stewardship

I am energized by this year's stewardship theme, "Transforming Generosity." I like it because it has two meanings.

The first way to look at it is that generosity can transform us, our community and our church. When we become financially generous, we can empower the ministry of Trinity and transform the wider community.

The second meaning is that we can transform what generosity looks like. We can define generosity as the way we live our lives and the way our church works in the community. We are called to be generous financially. But we are also called to be generous in the way we welcome newcomers, care for the planet, forgive those who have offended us, and care for our facilities.

This year's pledge drive is about more than our parish budget. It is about how we transform generosity and allow generosity to transform us. I know our lives can be changed through this work. I hope each one of us will listen carefully to our members who, at each worship service, share their experience of stewardship, and prayerfully review the reflections distributed each weekend during our pledge campaign. They represent a variety of voices on generosity from across the Church.

Join with me as we work together to transform generosity in our church, our community and our lives. Pledge letters were mailed to all our Trinity families and additional pledge packages are available in the Parish Hall. Pledges can also be made on line at our website: trinitychurchmilford.org, select "GIVE" and then "PLEDGE ONLINE"

Our Bishop's Pastoral Address and Our Presiding Bishop's

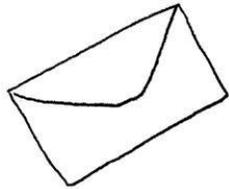
Each year, at our diocesan convention, our Bishop, Doug Fisher, delivers his annual pastoral address. You can find Bishop Fisher's address (both the text and the video) on our diocesan website at diocesewma.org. I invite you to watch or read it and think about how we have the opportunity to take the message of the Gospel out into the world. How are you doing it today in your life? Talk to me about your experiences!

Blessings and Peace,
Father Mac



On three Saturdays in November, the 3rd, 10th, and 17th, we will have our Fall Clean-Up days, and we need your help! In the past, this has been a time of great fellowship and fun amidst a little bit of labor. Starting at 8am, we will work to rake and clean up the leaves and garden areas, and organize and clean a few other areas within the Church.

Come for an hour or the entire time, and bring the family too! There will be opportunities for everyone to serve no matter the skill set and age level. This will be a great time to connect with one another and take ownership of the worship space and property we share, so don't miss out!



WHAT'S WITH THE ENVELOPE IN THE BULLETIN AND NEWSLETTER??

Hopefully you will notice the “Rector’s Discretionary Fund” envelope that is included in this newsletter and will be inserted in the bulletins throughout November. Here’s the scoop on that! Traditionally, we all had our little boxes of envelopes, used to deliver and properly credit our weekly pledges. Also in those boxes were other “special contribution” envelopes, as reminders that our mission fund, rector’s discretionary fund and building & property funds count upon our occasional directed donations for these important parish works.

As more people have converted to making their pledge payments automatically through electronic bill paying systems (which is great!) we don’t see those little envelopes to remind us to support our special funds.

So...in hopes of jogging our memories, we’ve picked a “need of the month” and will be providing these envelopes as a reminder to help in these areas if you are able.

This month of November is the time we support our Rector’s Discretionary Fund. This is the fund that allows Fr. Mac to help out our families and members of our community with emergency needs. Hardly a day goes by without a call for help, ranging from help with heat, food, transportation, shelter and so many more. It is through the generosity of our community that we are able to support these emergency situations.

For those of you still using envelopes regularly, feel free to continue with the special offerings as they ‘come up in the box’ if that is easier.

For those of us happy to have the reminder to support these important areas of ministry, our beloved steward of the offering, Charlie, will be sure your donations are properly credited. If you enclose cash, just jot your name on the envelope. Thank you for all you do to support our collective work.

Your donations of time and/or treasure are noticed and appreciated!!



November Vestry Meeting Summary

Parishioner Sharing

Cathy Poch and Beth Stochaj from the Landscape Committee presented a proposal from Bartlett Trees for trees and shrubs around the church property. The vestry approved the disbursement of \$1100 from the memorial fund to supplement the landscape budget.

- The organ project has sparked considerable interest and many questions from parishioners.
- St. Francis Sunday’s Blessing of the Animals was full of energy, excitement, and animals.

Treasurer’s Report - Finance Committee

- **Pledges** – Pledges are behind. A third quarter reminder will be sent out.

- **Special Offering Envelopes** – Since many people donate electronically, special offering envelopes could be placed in the pews, bulletins, or newsletter. The Girl Scouts are working on new card racks for the pews. Envelopes could be included there.
- **Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer** – Wayne Stochaj and Edla-Ann Bloom are working on job descriptions for treasurer and assistant treasurer.

Stewardship Report

- Susan Edmondson, Edla Ann Bloom, and Ginny Starkis are stewardship co-chairs.
- This year's theme is *Transforming Generosity*.
- A letter has been sent to all parishioners.
- Different parishioners will speak about stewardship on five separate Sundays.

Wardens' Report - Christian Education Committee

- Sunday School is moving forward. Attendance is consistent at about 12.
- Volunteers are needed weekly. All adults and young adults are encouraged to sign up online at tinyurl.com/TrinitySSHelpers. Parents should sign up for six Sundays.

Christmas Fair

- More help is needed at work meetings.
- Tickets for the Tinseltown raffle will be available November 1.
- We will have a presence at the craft fair at Milford High School the day after Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving Dinners

- MAHC will coordinate and pay for the dinners. Dave Scott will supervise the preparation of the Dinners and Justin Varteresian will manage the production and distribution.

Rector's Report

- **Youth Summit** - Our youth would prefer to meet on Sunday afternoon or evening.
- **Winterlight** - Winterlight is an event for all 9th-12th graders, held December 26 to January 1, at Kanuga in North Carolina. Registration deadline is October 21.
- **Nightwatch** – Nightwatch is an overnight trip to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City that includes preparing and distributing meals to the homeless. Date to be determined.
- **Youth Group Meeting** -Sunday, October 28.
 - ❖ 5th-8th grade from 4-6 PM
 - ❖ Joint dinner 6-6:30 PM
 - ❖ 9th-12th graders 6:30-8:30 PM

Adult participation in all youth group events is needed.

Renewal Works - The first team meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 13.

Bible Challenge – Bible Challenge discussion takes place at 10 AM on Wednesday mornings after the Eucharist. The evening session is once a month at 5pm on the second Sunday.

Revival – The bus for the revival with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is full.



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6th

Tuesday, November 6th is Election Day – Exercise your right to vote!

Study the candidates and the issues and vote wisely!

A quote from our Presiding Bishop:

"Voting and participation in our government is a way of participating in our common life and that is a Christian obligation."

-Presiding Bishop Michael Curry



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 3rd.



CHANGE THE BABIES

Have you seen the tall white cans around the church but maybe haven't had a chance to read what's on them?

Perhaps you saw articles in the Diocese's "Abundant Times", or in their "Mission Matters" emails that spoke about the Mampong Babies Home in Ghana.

These cans are for collecting change for the Mampong Babies Home. This is a home where babies are taken care of because their mothers have died. The babies remain there until they are about 4 or 5 years of age, when their families are then able to take care of them. At any time, there are between 35 to 40 babies there.

It costs \$1500 to care for one baby for their first five years. That's what it costs for the basics, it does not include the salary of the round-the-clock care they get.

The Diocese put out a challenge to the congregations to provide for the care of five babies over the course of five years. Yes, that's the challenge, to collect \$1500 each year to cover the cost of caring for one child for their time at the Babies Home. Trinity has committed to the challenge, and that's why the cans are out.

You may already be collecting your dimes or nickels for your UTO box, and perhaps you're putting quarters into the Laundry Love bottle. Please consider putting some change into the 'Change the Babies' cans, even if it's just your pennies, every little bit helps. If you have already been putting coins in the can, thank you!

BELLS OF PEACE

Trinity joins the 'Bells of Peace' on Armistice Centennial

Bells will be rung across America on November 11th to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, in a collaborative project announced by the US World War I Centennial Commission. Bells of Peace is aimed at bringing together places of worship, schools, town halls and community organizations in a nationwide act of remembrance.

We will participate at 11:11am, marking the 11th minute, of the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month when the ceasefire ending WWI came into effect in 1918. In Washington DC, the bells of the National Cathedral will toll at an interfaith service commemorating all those who served, and the 116,516 Americans who never came home.

I invite all our veterans who have served our country to join in the ringing of our bell. Let Fr. Mac know if you would like to participate.



Do you need or know someone who needs a winter coat this year? On Saturday November 24th from noon-3pm, the Girls Scout are organizing the annual One Warm Coat drive in our Parish Hall. The need for winter coats is high this year. If you have a coat - youth or adult - please consider a donation to this annual drive.

Donations are accepted at Trinity Church (in the donation box) or on November 24th from 9-11:30am.

The Girls Scouts typically collect and give away over 500 youth and adult winter coats to those in need. There is a collection box in the Parish Hall for clean, new or gently used winter coats. If you have any questions, please call or email Brenda at 857-234-2248 or brendawheelock@gmail.com.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS

The first meeting of the new Teen Confirmation Class will be on Sunday, November 4th from 11:30am – 1pm. This will be a planning meeting to decide the best meeting times and to determine the interest level. The meeting / class is open to all interested teens.

DECLARING DIRECTIVES - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8th at 7:00 pm

Conversation Sabbath is a national initiative that has invited clergy leaders to preach and teach this fall about people making decisions of vital importance.

They want to encourage people to talk about what matters the most to them at the end of life. They hope to spark a national conversation.

Now, I don't know if Fr. Mac ever received word of this invitation, but it would seem he did because he has invited a group known as *Declaring Directives* to come to Trinity to teach us all how to have difficult conversations in a relaxed, informative way about these issues of vital importance.

Please join us on Thursday, November 8th for *Declaring Directives* at 7:00 pm in the Upper Hall.

DECLARING DIRECTIVES is an initiative to create the possibility that all people will have their wishes made known to their chosen health care proxy agent. Naming a proxy early will help prepare for the unexpected. Unfortunately, not all people have documented health care proxies, which can lead to confusion and burden for family members when situations arise in which a person is unable to make his/her wishes known.

A health care proxy form is a simple legal document that allows a person age 18 or older, to name someone to speak on their behalf to make medical decisions when he or she is incapable of making and executing the healthcare decision outlined in the proxy.

The DECLARING DIRECTIVES team is made up of both health care professionals and lay person volunteers who are committed to assisting those in the community who would like to declare their health care wishes.

DECLARING DIRECTIVES events are held in local places of worship and at no cost to the organization or its members. The benefits to the attendees include an opportunity to:

- ✓ learn about the value and importance of health care proxies
- ✓ learn key terms and basic concepts of advanced care planning
- ✓ declare and sign a health care proxy document should they wish to do so, and to give a copy to their health care provider, proxy & family
- ✓ initiate conversations with loved ones about what is most important to them in terms of health care.

THANK YOU, VETERANS!

On Veterans Day, we honor men and women who've served and sacrificed in one of America's armed services.

On November 11, 1918, America and her allies signed a truce with German leaders, ending World War I. In 1919, President Wilson decided the United States should remember with gratitude the end of that war and honor military members by marking Armistice Day, or "truce" day. In 1954, Congress changed the name to Veterans Day, honoring veterans of every era.

Veterans Day highlights our country's quest for peace, justice and freedom throughout the world. Followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, pray for unity among all nations and for the day when "nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4, NIV).

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Slips for Thanksgiving Basket items will be available on Sunday, October 28th in the upper Parish Hall. If you take a slip, please return the item(s) on Sunday, November 18th by 10am. Baskets will be assembled that day after the 10am service and be available for pickup.

Anyone needing a Thanksgiving Basket (which will contain a frozen turkey, stuffing mix, and other ingredients) should contact the office by Thursday, November 8th. All requests are confidential.

Jesse Tree

If you or someone you know needs assistance this Christmas, please contact the office by Friday, November 30th. The Jesse Tree will be up in the back of the church the first Sunday in December. Parishioners - if you take a slip to fulfill a request, all items must be returned by 11am on Sunday December 16th as deliveries/pickups will begin. Thank you for your assistance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Everyone from high school age up is invited to volunteer in our Sunday School. As a volunteer, you can participate in what our youngest members are doing and support their faith development. Sign up for one Sunday or as many as you choose. This is a commitment of 45 minutes to one hour in a week. Can you spare one hour?

Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/TrinitySSHelpers>

TRINITY MEAT RAFFLES



Trinity is hosting its first Meat Raffle this year on Sunday, November 18th from 2-4 PM (doors open at 1:30pm) in the upper Parish Hall. What is a meat raffle and how does it work? A meat raffle runs as follows: 3 playing cards are stapled together (for example, 2 of spades, 9 of diamonds, and Queen of hearts), and a caller will go through a deck of cards calling out each card. The first person to have all 3 cards shouts out "RAFFLE" and wins a fabulous package of meat!

Some of the meat to be raffled includes roast beef, spiral hams, ribs, and chicken breasts, and more! There will be 20 raffle tickets at \$2 each, or a full page for \$35, covering the cost of all 20 raffles; a great deal for this incredibly fun event!

Only 100 seats are available and it's first come/first served. This event is open to the community and we'd love to have you join us and invite a friend or two (or ten)! Raffle pages will be sold at the door and upstairs, along with a concession stand selling soda, water, and snacks. Come see what this is all about, hang out, and take some chances to bring home the bacon that you can cook as soon as you get home!

10 volunteers are also needed to make sure each person has cards for each raffle, collecting and passing the cards out, and having fun. After expenses, all proceeds from this event go to benefit the mission and ministry of Trinity. Please contact me at misstraceyngcc@gmail.com with any questions or if you want to volunteer.

– Tracey N. Morse



TRINITY'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR – SATURDAY, DEC. 1ST!

It's fall now, so that means it's time to start sending out all the Christmas fair info. We've been working diligently throughout the year with behind-the-scenes planning and monthly craft meetings. Thanks to all who have joined us – your help is so appreciated. There'll be a list of table chairs and areas needing help coming soon in the Parish hall.

Trinity Tinsel Town Raffle (formerly the Traveling Bazaar table) Tickets are Ready to Sell! Sell! Sell!

Please pick up raffle tickets along with a list of prizes and start selling. All tickets are due back on the day of the Christmas Fair. Tickets are available at each coffee hour.

Gallery of Arts and Crafts Fair at Milford High School – Saturday, Nov. 24th

We will have a table at the craft fair at Milford High School on Saturday November 24th from 9am- 3pm. We will be selling raffle tickets and craft items. We are looking for volunteers for an hour or two or part of the day. If you are willing to help, please contact Gayle or Maryellen.

Jewelry table – Once again we'll be having a table selling used jewelry this year and are looking for all kinds (it should be in very good, if not excellent condition). Please clean out your jewelry boxes and see what you can donate. We'll accept vintage and jewelry from every decade including pins, bracelets, earrings, necklaces, and so forth. Please, no watches unless they work. Sterling silver (if you wish to part with it) is OK but please, no gold. We're looking forward to this fun table. You can drop off items any time between now and the fair with the Stewards of the Offering (there'll be a box in their office).

Hazel's Café – Think waitresses/waiters. Please donate some time to this busy area – many folks are needed for this to run smoothly.

Set-Up & Breakdown – John Ellis is the contact person.

- **Café walls** on Saturday November 24th – Contact John to help out!
- **Tables, etc.:** Sunday November 25th, following 10 am service.
- **Breakdown:** Sunday December 2nd, following the 10 am service.

As you can see there's a lot to do and think about already.

Thanks in advance and if you have any questions, please contact Gayle Ruscitti (Head Elf) at jrgrrus@yahoo.com or [508-498-5871](tel:508-498-5871) or Mary-Ellen Yaroshefski (Asst. Head Elf) at ayaroshefski@yahoo.com or [508-634-7792](tel:508-634-7792) or see us in church. Much more info is to come. I know with everyone's help we can have a great fair!

Gayle Ruscitti
[508-498-5871](tel:508-498-5871)
jrgrrus@yahoo.com



BUSY FINGERS CHRISTMAS FAIR TABLE

Trinity's Christmas Fair will soon be here. We have been receiving hand crafted items for the Busy Fingers table. We would certainly appreciate more items. Thank you to those who have already given us items to sell at the table. If you haven't contributed to the Busy Fingers table, please consider making a handcrafted item to donate. It would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact me at 508-634-8996. Thank you!

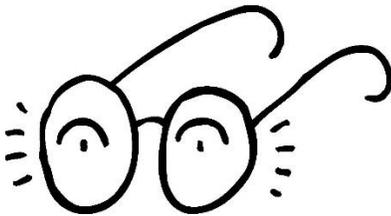
Thank you.
Lucille Clinkman

ROMEO's LUNCHEON



The Romeo's group will meet for lunch at Galliford's Restaurant (at Southwick's Zoo), 5 Southwick Street, Mendon, at 12:15 PM (note the change of time) on Friday, November 2. It is not necessary to purchase admission to the zoo in order to enjoy lunch at Galliford's. If you wish to attend, please contact Dave Clinkman at clinkman@comcast.net or [508-634-8996](tel:508-634-8996) by Wednesday, October 31 so we can make reservations.

Directions to Galliford's will be sent out later. If you need a ride, contact Dave by 10/31. Romeo's is a social group for retired men and other men who wish to join us during their lunch hour.



EYEGLOSS RECYCLING

Trinity's participation in the Milford Lions Club eyeglass recycling program continues. The total number of glasses collected by Trinity parishioners for people in need is 350. 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!



Thanksgiving Meal

For decades, Thanksgiving meals were prepared by Jean's Catering of Milford and delivered by volunteers from St. Mary's and Trinity Episcopal churches as well as by the community as a whole. Jean's passed the torch last year to the Milford Area Humanitarian Coalition (MAHC) after providing thousands and thousands of meals. Last year MAHC distributed close to 200 meals.

MAHC, together with St. Mary's Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, and the Milford Rotary will continue to prepare and deliver meals to those residents who are alone, shut in, or wouldn't otherwise have a Thanksgiving meal. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the meals. Meals

will be prepared and distributed from Trinity's kitchen. Dave Scott will cook and Justin Varteresian will be in charge of packaging. See Justin if you would like to help prepare.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the deliveries. Simply show up at Trinity at 11am on Thanksgiving Day (November 22nd) and you will be given a card with the number of meals to take and the address to deliver them to.

Meals may be reserved by calling St. Mary's at [\(508\) 473-2000](tel:5084732000) or Trinity Episcopal at (508) 473-8464. All requests must be called in by November 16th to reserve a meal. When requesting meals, the caller must provide a telephone number, address, and number of meals needed.

We hope to make this a joyful celebration for all.



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.

COMMUNITY DINNER

November meals have been moved to the first week of December, and there are two sets of community meals on these dates: 5th - 7th, 26th - 28th.

If you are interested in helping prepare and serve the dinner, please contact communitymeal@trinitychurchmilford.org for how to serve in this meaningful mission.



November

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.

NewsLetter DEADLINE

Just a reminder that the deadline for submissions for the December edition of *The Trinitarian* is November 15th. All articles should be sent to: news@trinitychurchmilford.org. Please do not send articles to the church office.



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Email (Wardens) wardens@trinitychurchmilford.org
Web www.trinitychurchmilford.org
Worship Schedule Wednesday, 9am
Saturday, 5pm
Sunday, 8am and 10am

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November 2018

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



From the Editor

It is mid-October as I am writing this and I have been greatly enjoying the lovely foliage. I cannot walk very far, but I live very close to a beautiful lake and can easily access the water's edge to take it all in. I live with a camera always in my hand, and I have gotten some wonderful shots of the leaves as well as the creatures that inhabit the lake. Enjoy the bounty of this autumn season and take time to appreciate our families, friends, and the love and peace that surround us in this season of thanks.

Elizabeth Klsiewicz, Editor

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