Beginning to End:
Following in the Footsteps of Jesus

The bookends of Lent are Ash Wednesday and Easter – the reminders of our mortality and our new life in Christ. This year, the holy season started with tragic shooting of high school teenagers in Parkland, Florida. Since Sandy Hook in 2012, our nation has seen the deaths of 138 people from shootings in schools. The bitter headlines remind us again that we are but dust.

Ash Wednesday this year was also Valentine’s Day, commemorating a 15th century saint, beheaded near Rome by the emperor Claudius II for helping Christian couples wed. Now it is a day to offer loving gestures. Thus Lent began not only in sin and violence, but also by acts of humility and honoring others.

When Lent and Holy Week draw to a close, we rise to new and unending life in Jesus Christ. Because Easter falls on April 1st this year, it may be both a high holy day and a day of foolish pranks. This coincidence brings to mind that believers in the Resurrection are fools for Christ.

When Jesus prayed and fasted in the wilderness, he showed us we could grow spiritually in love, compassion, and forgiveness. Enduring mockery and humiliation from the crowd on Good Friday, he carried the cross in the way of self-giving and non-violence.

St. Paul writes:

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”
(1 Corinthians 1:18)

“For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.”
(1 Corinthians 1:21)

Following in the footsteps of Jesus may seem foolish to some. But following Christ together in our vulnerability, we can learn from his way of being. Perhaps during Lent, we can seek the spiritual strength and courage to counter the violence of this world as agents for God’s peace and reconciliation.

Faithfully,

Peggy+
The Rev. Margaret R. Hodgkins, Rector

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1 www.history.com/news/6-surprising-facts-about-st-valentine
If you’re anything like me, Lent is a tricky time. Though not as busy as Advent and its lead up to Christmas, Lent brings other kinds of questions with it, especially if you’re thinking of observing the ancient tradition of fasting for the forty days. “Why does the Church practice this tradition in the first place, and should I participate in it?” The answer to the first question, like so many parts of our communal Church life, is a combination of history and tradition. Historically, the Great Vigil of Easter was one of the days in the year when new Christians were baptized and formally brought into the Church. The forty days before it were used as a time of preparation and fasting. Over the years, members of the Church began to participate in the ritual out of solidarity with these new Christians. The time period – forty days – is drawn from the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his ministry. As Jesus did, so should we.

The second question of whether or not to participate in such a fast, however, is a much more personal one, and should be considered seriously. I’ve always been challenged by Lenten fasting, and have usually found the practice to be more of a distraction than a spiritual aid. I began to wonder what else I could do to deepen my relationship with God in this time of preparation. In recent years, rather than giving something up, I’ve begun the tradition of taking on a spiritual practice in Lent. It began simply – I would pick up my study Bible and read the commentary on that Sunday’s lessons – and grew over time to reading whole books of the Bible that I was less familiar with.

This Lent, if you find the practice of giving something up to be unhelpful, I invite you to take on a spiritual practice that you feel will deepen your relationship with God. Why not join us in A Journey Through Luke and Acts, a series of special forums being offered this Lent. Forward Movement has provided an easy, day by day calendar for reading this two-part work, which can be found in printouts around the church, or online at: https://www.forwardmovement.org/promotions/PDF/Readings_PDF_Web.pdf

There are many kinds of spiritual practices available to us, and I look forward to learning about yours. However you choose to mark your Lent, I pray that it is rich and meaningful for you.

In Peace, Rob Laughton

Recurring dates:
Sundays 7–8:30pm—High School Youth Group
Tuesdays 7pm—Men’s Bible Study in the Library
Wednesdays 6–8pm Middle School Youth Group

Upcoming dates:
March 25: Youth Groups serve at Chapel on the Green, New Haven
March 30: Trinity Youth Group Stations of the Cross service, 11am
April 27–28: 30-hr Famine w/ Trinity Youth at St. Timothy’s
May 19: Service of Confirmation at St. Timothy’s

Lenten Series
The History of Christianity: The First 3,000 Years
Story of the world’s most successful religion told by Oxford history professor and one of the leading historians of the church, Diarmaid MacCulloch. The acclaimed BBC series reveals the true origins of our faith and delves into what it means to be a Christian. Thought-provoking and magisterial in its scope, it shows how a small Jewish sect that preached humility became the biggest religion in the world.

Wed. evenings: 6:30pm Compline in the Chapel
7pm, program in the Library. Discussion follows each episode. Come and enrich your understanding of history!

Episodes shown in the library during Lent and Easter:
Feb. 21 - Episode 1 - The First Christianity
Feb. 28 - Episode 2 - Catholicism: The Unpredictable Rise of Rome
March 14 - Episode 3 - Orthodoxy: From Empire to Empire
March 21 - Episode 4 - Reformation: The Individual Before God
March 28 - Episode 5 - Protestantism: The Evangelical Explosion
April 11 - Episode 6 - God in the Dock
Youth Matters

Above, Middle School Youth Group preparing backpacks for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. Below, High School Youth Group at Nutmeg Curling Club. Photos: Rob Laughton

On Friday, Feb. 2nd, the Confirmation class visited Congregation B’nai Israel, in Fairfield. Above, Rabbi Evan Schultz speaks to the class about the congregation’s Torah scroll. Photo: Rob Laughton

CAMP TRINITY SOUTHPORT
July 9- August 10, 2018

When: July 9- August 10
Where: 651 Pequot Avenue, Southport
Time: 9am- 1pm
Who: Children ages 3-6
For more information, contact camptrinitysouthport@gmail.com
Or Tanya Dunne directly @ 516.761.0586

5 Weeks of Summertime FUN! Keep your child ENGAGED and THRIVING this summer with a structured and fun summer camp experience! Each week features a different theme specifically chosen to keep your child excited about camp. Highlights include daily water play and sensory activities, arts and crafts, Wacky Wednesdays and Spirit Fridays. Pick and choose any number of weeks and give your child a taste of the happiness that is CAMP.

› Week 1 “Camp Spirit”
› Week 2 “Mad About Science” (STEM Week)
› Week 3 “Water, Water, Everywhere”
› Week 4 “Decades of Fun”
› Week 5 “Color Me Crazy”
The Spire

A Report on The Trinity (Wall St.) Institute

At the break of February, St. John’s in Bridgeport provided the setting for members of a number of nearby Episcopal churches to view together the live feed from the annual Trinity (Wall Street) Institute.

Three from our Trinity were there: Rector, Peggy Hodgkins, co-Outreach-Chair Judy Proctor, and I. Call us blessed or call us lucky, we were sad that it was we few only from the parish! So many needed to have been with us. Ideas seemingly intended to speak to them alone, and to us all, now kept popping up like sprouts in a spring garden. Strength comes from surprising places.

Our Presiding Bishop, The Right Rev. Michael Curry, opened the proceedings with an extraordinary sermon. If ever a sermon can be said to be a tour de force, it is this one, largely spoken but occasionally sung. A link will take you there:


What is “amen” to you? Irish poet and theologian Pádraig Ó Tuama knows it as “a little bird of praise.” This beautiful man spoke to us with tales of growing up in Belfast during the latter years of The Troubles. His sense of humor is unscathed, even if he himself may never be. He read sonnets to us of power and humility that set me Googling which of his books to order first.

Thinking back to the talks the Rev. Dr. Heather Wright gave at Trinity this fall—about how at times we need take care, since our words can create space between us as easily as they can bring us together—I was affected by a poem he read. He calls it, “The Pedagogy of Conflict.” In these days of fears of conflict and of intentional destruction of entire cities—of refugees dying in cold seas by the shores of Syria—this poem calls to us all to read, mark and learn. I found his text on Krista Tippet’s website.

When I was a child, I learnt to count to five:
one, two, three, four, five.
But these days, I’ve been counting lives, so I count
one life
one life
one life
one life
one life
Because each time is the first time that that life has been taken.
Legitimate Target
has sixteen letters
and one
long
abominable
space
between
two
dehumanising
words.

I am an Episcopalian, but look for me to be evangelical next year in advance of the Trinity Institute. Look for me to buttonhole you at coffee hour to join us for this outstanding experience. At this writing, it’s been 48 hours since the Institute adjourned yet the thoughts it triggered remain with me still.

~ Sheila Traub

A Trip to Salisbury, England!

Trinity Southport is planning a trip to England with Rev. Peggy Hodgkins. Sept. 30 - Oct. 6, 2018, to attend a Sarum College course entitled “Foundations and Forms of Christian Spirituality.” The group will stay in Sarum College in the Salisbury Cathedral Close. If interested, or for more information, please contact Sheila Traub: sheilastraub@optimum.net

A deposit of $600 towards the $1,100 total cost of tuition, lodging in the Cathedral Close, and meals must be paid by March 15. (Transportation is on one’s own. Limited spaces are available.)
Deacon Matters

A Deacons Prayer
If you know Christ as Savior, you’re His servant. It’s not optional; it’s mandatory.

How we serve Christ will vary according to the spiritual gifts that He has given us and the opportunities that come our way. But every Christian should have the mindset, “I am a servant of Jesus Christ.”

The diaconate is one of three distinct orders of ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church—there are deacons, priests and bishops—and an individual becomes a deacon by being ordained by a bishop after completing a course of study and formation, which I did over a period of four years. My service is a sign or sacrament of Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve. It is my prayer that I am showing myself to be an instrument of service to Trinity Church.

I imagine that every deacon has a favorite passage from scripture that binds us to our call to ministry. I also think that there are three that resonate within the heart of each deacon and I know within me.

In Acts 6 is the story of the calling of the first deacons which certainly defines my servanthood. Isaiah 6, “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here I am; Send me!” In John 21 the question is asked, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him a third time, “do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” In each of these passages, we who answer are sent. In Acts, we are charged with the care of those in the community who are overlooked, neglected. In Isaiah, we respond, “Send me!” In John, we are sent where we may not wish to go - to what we may not wish to do. A deacon’s life is not settled. In fact, as soon as we are settled, we are sent again!

My ordination to Holy Orders, September 12, 2009 by the Rt. Rev. Andrew Smith (retired) with Bishops Laura Ahrens and James Curry (retired) at Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, CT

But being unsettled is a gift that forces us to rely upon God and the miracle is that wherever we are, God is. We build community wherever we are by inviting and empowering others to trust God and share their gifts for ministry.

We, the vocational deacons in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut receive no financial compensation for the work we do. With willing hearts, we follow Jesus who is our model for servant leadership, and as a deacon, I have discerned my calling to exercise servant leadership in a variety of ways, including encouraging and enabling others to serve. A deacon has one foot in the world and one foot in the church.

Those of us with the gift of service, are like the linemen on a football team. We don’t usually share the limelight with the quarterback, but without our hard work, the quarterback couldn’t begin to do their job.

Thanks be to God!

The Reverend Canon Diane M. Peterson, Deacon
From the Choir Loft

Alex Levin
Jazz
Ensemble
April 17th

On Saturday, March 17th at 5pm, we have something a little different! The Alex Levin Jazz Ensemble comes to us from New York City to present a concert of jazz standards. Their leader, Alex Levin, has been performing jazz in New York City for more than a decade. A graduate of the New School Jazz Program in the 90s and Brown University, he moved to Berlin and performed throughout Europe until his return to NYC in 2001. Since then, he has released several CDs and performs extensively in NYC and abroad. Don’t miss this incredible opportunity to hear one of New York’s finest jazz ensembles! Tickets may be purchased at http://www.alexlevinjazz.com/

April 29th at 5pm, we continue our yearly collaboration with Christ & Holy Trinity, Westport, as we combine for a service of Choral Evensong, this year to be held in Westport. The choirs always enjoy working together and the combined forces always produce an exciting sound. Join us for this service of sung evening prayer and some of the great music of the English Cathedral repertoire with our friends from Westport.

Robert

Robert Kwan, Director of Music & Organist
Happy Spring Everyone!

When I think of spring I think of new life, new beginnings, and most importantly hope. It is so exciting to say goodbye to winter and embrace the warmth and promise of the new season.

As we prepare for our “Spring Into Trinity” gala I’m grateful for the dedication to T.P.N.S. I also see our parents volunteering in the classrooms, reading to the children, making special snacks, and sharing every day. It is our families and fabulous staff that make our school unique. I am blessed to be a part of this special community. Thank you!

Here’s to a spring full of laughter, love, and thanks for each new day.

~ Meg Reilly, Director of TPNS

Dates to Remember:

- **Monday, March 19**  Professional Development Day (Staff only-No school)
- **Friday, March 30**  Good Friday  No school
- **Monday, April 2**  Easter Monday  No school
- **Tues. Apr. 2 - Wed. Apr. 3**  School Picture Days
- **April 9-13**  Spring Break  No school
- **Monday, April 30**  “Peaceful Parent, Happy Kids” with Dr. Laura Markham, GFA Performing Arts Center
- **Fri., May 4, 7-11pm**  Spring Into Trinity
- **Wednesday, May 23**  Last day of school
- **Tues., May 29 - Fri., Jun.**  TPNS Summer Fun Camp

Rob Laughton leads a TPNS Chapel session. It’s Miss Diane and Miss Dina’s 5 day 4’s turn to light candles and ring the bells . . . .

Thanks for a great Chapel, Rob!

Photo: Diane Creamer

At Left: Miss Glenda and Miss Mary’s 5 day 3’s acting out the story of The Mitten by Jan Brett.

Photo: Miss Glenda
TRINITY OUTREACH

OUTREACH COMMITTEE FUNDING 2017
At Trinity’s January budget meeting, presented by John Kreitler, a number of parishioners asked for a listing of the specific organizations the Outreach Committee funds.

To implement Outreach Mission goals, the committee has focused both its funding and initiatives on organizations where Trinity parishioners (Outreach Leaders) have a direct relationship. The goal is three-pronged: to use our Talent, Treasure, and Touch. Our Outreach Leaders head committees, guide volunteer programs, and in many instances serve as the administrators, so that Trinity’s money goes directly to recipients.

Funds Designated by 2017 Church Budget - $25,000

Local:
Greater Bridgeport Deanery $2,500
Adopt A Social Worker $140
Mercy Learning Center $1,500
Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport $1,000
CTBPT – United for PR $2,954
Bridgeport Rescue (Backpacks) $823

National:
Jerusalem Peacebuilders $3,000
IRIS $5,000

International:
Haitian Education Initiative (HEI) $4,500
Honduras Scholarship $700
(plus $300 Trinity Lime Rock & $1,500 Trinity Honduras Fund = $2,500 sent)

Emergency Funding:
Episcopal Relief and Development $5,000
(for relief on Hurricanes Irma, Maria, Harvey)

TOTAL: $27,117

Funds Raised by the Outreach Committee in 2017
Yearly Change Campaign $1,665
Stop & Shop Grant $1,600
Park for Food (Pequot Library Book Sale) $3,203

TOTAL: $6,468

~ Judy Proctor
Outreach Co-Chair, with Stephen Stout

Watch for the jars on Sunday, April 8!
Spring is the time the Outreach committee will once again collect change to celebrate all the outreach activities supported by Trinity parish. In 2017 we collected $1,665 which is a lot of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters.

“Outreach Creates Change” is our motto and 2018 marks the sixth year of the program. Mason jars are given and parishioners simply fill their jars with loose change and bring the jars to church where there is a collection spot in the Narthex. These contributions turn into materials and activities that help people in need.

Contact: Stephen Stout bikestout@gmail.com

Trinity Youth Spring Service Project
This Lent and spring our Sunday School and Youth Groups will be raising money to help families in developing countries to purchase livestock, empowering both individuals and communities to transform their lives. As we learn to think about service as an offering to God, our goal is to raise enough to purchase ten goats ($800) through Episcopal Relief and Development. Expect more information from your children soon!

For more information contact:
Rob Laughton: associate@trinitysouthport.org
or Lorie Boveroux: christianed@trinitysouthport.org
February 25 Outreach Forums
9 am & 11:15 am ~ Trinity Library

Want to find out how to cook or serve in a soup kitchen? Come learn from Michelle and Deacon Diane!

Michelle McCabe, of Council of Churches Greater Bridgeport - CCGB

Under Michelle McCabe's leadership, CCGB has marshaled its resources to redraft how they, and others, should be attacking the hunger problem in Bridgeport. Michelle and Deacon Diane will present information and updates.

- CCGB has developed best practices in the areas of food pantry cleanliness and active host-parish involvement.
- They are providing healthy food choices, and educating patrons on the importance of them to their health.
- CCCB is empowering patrons who are interested in the culinary field to get training, and have the opportunity to become chefs themselves someday.
- They have also fostered the growth of existing and potentially new farmers markets in Bridgeport.

The Trinity Forums will provide a time for those who have prepared and served at St. Luke's/St. Paul's and Operation Hope to gather and share recipes and tell experiences. It should also be inspiring to the rest of us to learn what it takes to cook and serve for 100, and/or to help support it as an on-going outreach!

HEI - Haitian Educational Initiatives

Caribbean Carnival
April 14 6-8 p.m.
Southport Galleries

Tickets $25 per person

Haitian art and music, rum-tasting, Caribbean buffet and live auction!

HEI serves 227 children in the beautiful coastal town of Jacmel. We partner with local community groups to provide scholarship, food, after school, summer camp and job training programs. Trinity supports 22 children with scholarships, uniforms, books, backpacks and school supplies.

Celebrate spring with us and support Trinity's international outreach!

For tickets and information: www.haitied.org
Trinity & the Community

ICONS IN THE CHAPEL
For Lent and Holy Week this year, you will see two icons set upon the altar in the Chapel—one of Jesus and one of St. John the Baptist. These icons were commissioned by our parishioner Clarissa Porter and are on loan to Trinity for this season. Icons are sacred images, considered a window to God, and carefully "written" (not “painted”) so that you might pray and reflect with them.

Blood and Marrow Drive
Please help support Kate Richards (Barbara Burian’s granddaughter) in her fight against aplastic anemia. Kate is doing well following a bone marrow transplant but we are hoping that those who have asked how they can help will consider participating in the drive:

Friday, March 23
11:30am-4:30pm
Greenfield Hill Church

Sign up at THIS LINK:
https://www.redcrossblood.org/give/drive/driveSearchList.jsp?
zipSponsor=fishswish

Anyone with questions about this, please contact Barbara Burian:
bjburian@optonline.net

BIBLICAL STORIES IN WESTERN ART:
A Visual Journey Through Time and Scripture
Instructed by Rev. Peggy Hodgkins
April 10 - May 8, Tuesdays, 10-11:30am - 5 sessions
Open MINDS Institute: at the Quick Center, Fairfield
$290 | $275 Member Price
$250 each if you enroll in two or more courses

Ever had your curiosity piqued about the stories depicted in the beautiful paintings found in the great European museums? Or, always wished you had taken a college course in Biblical literature? This series is for you!

The course allows the intellectual viewer a chance to ponder the literary richness of the Bible depicted in some of the great masterpieces of Western art.

Below: Hagar and Ishmael in the wilderness - By Corot

Each week, we will view slides of masterpieces and explore the human themes of birth, suffering, seeking, and transformation. The painted figures of Adam and Eve, the children of Israel, Job, and Jesus are quite varied and fascinating to behold. You don't need to be a Bible scholar—or even a believer—to appreciate this seminar as we explore the wonderful legacy of these Bible stories through the golden thread of western art and civilization.

SPRING FORWARD!
Daylight Savings Time Begins at Midnight
Sunday, March 11
Trinity & the Community

We Welcome Cesar Galindo, Trinity’s new Sexton!

PLEASE LET US KNOW!
In case of illness, accident, a death in the family, or other pastoral emergencies, please contact the Rev. Peggy Hodgkins
Trinity Office: 203-255-0454 ext. 301 or on her Mobile: 609-468-2171.

Altar Guild Needs Some New Members!
Preparing our Lord's table for Holy Communion is a joy and a privilege. Teams of two work with a captain to cover either the first or second half of the month.
To join the wonderful ministry of the Altar Guild, please contact the Directress: Patria Swann ~ 203-226-9489

Morning Prayer is offered Daily in the Chapel at Trinity
Every weekday morning at 7:30am Monday - Friday
(Enter through the kitchen door!)

Make Us Part of Your Legacy
Financial stability is an important element of enabling parish life to continue to flourish at Trinity beyond our own lifetimes. Please join those generous people who have included our church in their planned giving.
Contact Nelson North to schedule an informative conversation to explore possibilities together: nlnorth@gmail.com

Tuesday, March 6, 6-7:30 pm, Parish Hall
Exploratory meeting to test interest in monthly get-togethers to cook and dine together . . . just for the fellowship of it! The group would meet on the first Tuesday evening of the month in the parish kitchen.
Beverages and cheese only this first time—Email: TrinityCookery@gmail.com

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!
Cecily Stranahan to lead her Guided Meditation Classes in Trinity Library
Thursdays, April 19, & 26, and May 3 & 10
No prior experience needed ~ all are invited to attend a single, or every single session!
Trinity Episcopal Church
Trinity Parish Nursery School

651 Pequot Avenue
PO Box 400
Southport, CT 06890
203.255.0454
203.255.6096 (Fax)

Regular Sunday Worship:
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:45 AM Child Care
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Trinity Church Staff
Ed Michaels, Photographer
David Sturges, Parish Historian
Cesar Galindo, Sexton
Tanya Dunne, Dir. Camp Trinity-by-the-Sea
Andrew Ancona, Assistant Youth Minister
Lorie Boveroux, Director, Children’s Ministries
Cassia Ward, Spire Editor, Communications
Melanie Andrews, Financial Administrator
Meg Reilly, Nursery School Director
Dr. Robert Kwan, Director of Music/Organist
The Rev. Judith Greene, Priest Affiliate
The Rev. Mark Glidden, Priest Affiliate
The Rev. Diane Peterson, Deacon
Rob Laughton, Assoc./Youth & Family Ministries
The Rev. Margaret Hodgkins, Rector

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Church is open Mon. - Thurs.
8am-4pm for prayer & quiet

EASTER WEEK ~ 2018
March 25 ● Palm Sunday
7:45 AM ~ Palms & Holy Eucharist
9:00 AM ~ Decorating bikes & strollers, etc. at Perry Green
9:30 AM ~ Blessing of the Palms at Perry Green & Procession to
10:00 AM ~ Holy Eucharist in Church

March 27 ● Holy Tuesday
6:00 PM ~ Stations of the Cross at Trinity Church

March 29 ● Maundy Thursday
7:30 PM ~ “Lord’s Supper” and Foot Washing

March 30 ● Good Friday
11:00 AM ~ Stations of the Cross offered by the Youth Groups
12:30 PM ~ Service at St. Timothy’s, 4670 Congress St, Fairfield

March 31 ● Easter Eve
7:00 PM ~ Great Vigil of Easter at St. Paul’s, Old Post Rd., Fairfield

April 1 ● Easter Day
9:00 & 11:00 AM ~ Festal Holy Eucharist & Choir
10:30 AM ~ Easter Reception & Easter Egg Hunt

Trinity Church, Southport
Corner of Pequot Avenue & Center Street
203-255-0454 ● www.trinitysouthport.org
Worship With Us ~ ALL Are Welcome!