

Trinity Episcopal Church

Apalachicola, Florida



Annual Report
2020

Trinity Episcopal Church

Established in 1837

The Rev. Eric N. Zile, *Rector*

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443-604-5940

Services at 5 pm Saturday & 10 am Sunday, Eastern time

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Vestry & Officers – 2020

Senior Warden

Lee Bettis

Junior Warden

Charlie Galloway

Members

Mickey Harris, Betty Fugate, Landy Luther, Randy Mims,
C.T. Ponder, Steve Watkins, Susie Wagoner

Clerk

Denise Butler

Treasurer

Kirk Hadaway

*A parish of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast,
Trinity is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion.*

Rector's 2020 Review

Sisters and Brothers in Christ --

I'm not accustomed to writing an annual report for the church. I am accustomed to giving an oral presentation, so please bear with me as I strive to sum up the Year of Our Lord 2020, because at times it has felt like the year of the devil.

We who live in the world but who are not of it, do not mark time as does secular society. We begin our year four weeks prior to Christmas with First Advent and end the year as we will on November 22 with the Feast of Christ the King. As 2020 began, Dewitt Galloway entered the gates of larger life. We should have known right then and there what the year would bring. Throughout the year we lost Myra Ponder, Kathy Willis, Tom Adams, and recently, Bob Connors. People have moved away; people have stopped participating in corporate worship because of the pandemic; and some seem to have faded away or joined another community of faith. Relationships have been and continue to be tested in this crazy year.

Prior to Advent last year, I became ill with diverticulitis and was hospitalized in November and had surgery to remove 15 inches of my colon in February. Throughout that period of time and for many months after, I lost 40 pounds and was lethargic, to say the least. Now I am experiencing some more "stomach issues" which I hope to have cleared up in the near future. My health has been better in previous years. I thank this loving community for its prayers and patience. The phone calls and cards sustained me. During this time of separation, let us not forget to call or write to others within our community.

Speaking of community, until the pandemic struck, Monday school was a growing and lively ministry. It is hoped that we will begin again after the first of the year. One of the books we read was *Becoming Wise* by Krista Tippett. It was a good book and provoked a lot of discussion, although toward the end, we all got a little bored with it. We also watched some YouTube videos that sparked laughter, community building, and a great deal of discussion. Average attendance at Monday School was about 10-12; we thoroughly enjoyed it and the participants long for its return.

As soon as I was able to return to lead worship, the pandemic struck, and in mid-March everything shut down. We were unable to gather together for months and Grady Escobar and I worked together to film the service each Sunday. Lent, Easter, Ascension



Day, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday found Grady and me alone with God in the sanctuary. It was the strangest Easter ever. I now know how Thomas felt when all of the other disciples had seen the Lord and he had missed it.

My Easter came when we were able to once again worship together in Benedict Hall, and then eventually outside. The Saturday service at 5 pm seems to be a hit and the 10 am Sunday Eucharist is also greatly appreciated. *If we could only sing!!!* After the pandemic, we may continue to have the Saturday evening service, but that is not written in stone. I certainly miss the community exchanging the Peace; gathering together at the altar rail; laying hands on those who are desirous of prayer or unction; and, of course, Coffee Hour (the eighth sacrament) and the indelible sense of community it imprints on my soul. I also miss the most excellent deviled eggs!

Although our bonds have been tested, ministry has taken place throughout the pandemic. Trinity supplied one young man with a scholarship to Tallahassee Community College. Parishioners also donated computers to local scholars. Donations have been coming in, and along with monthly cash donations, over three tons of food has been delivered to local food banks. I stopped weighing the donations last month. Your contributions have helped both parishioners and community members pay their mortgage, their rent, light bills, medical bills, prescriptions, car repairs (so folks could get to work), hotel bills for families and individuals experiencing homelessness, and of course for food and clothing. The Backpack Buddies program was funded; the Rotary Club's camp received a financial gift; we have provided financial assistance to Elder Care; and hundreds of (if not more than 1000) masks were made by members of Trinity, Apalachicola and distributed throughout the town and county. Making connections with one another maintained the bonds of friendship and spiritual formation.

This year, after the death of George Floyd, we began to look at racial justice and reconciliation. To that end our banner went up on the 6th Street side of the church. In the near future, it will be replaced with an Advent/Christmas message. Shortly after the banner went up, a small group began meeting on Kathy Willis' porch and began to have a dialogue with some of our African American neighbors. These biweekly conversations have been both eye-opening and community building. Again, new bonds have been made and old ones strengthened. I too have begun to form bonds with some of our African American neighbors. Thanks to Penny Marler, we have also begun researching the spiritual life and worship experiences of those enslaved persons who were baptized at Trinity prior to emancipation. These actions again have strengthened bonds within the community.

The infection of over 500 people in Franklin County with COVID-19 coincided with a political infection that has taken place in the nation, the state, and even this community of faith. Divisions have arisen and I pray that the bonds of our life in Christ can overcome the divisions in our politics. Some persons have left the church over a feeling

that we have become "too liberal" while others think we are "too conservative." As I have said before, typically within an Episcopal church, you will find that 40% are Republican, 40% are Democrats, and 20% are not affiliated with any party; however, 100% are brothers and sisters in Christ and that bond should and must come first. I am

Sorry that some have felt alienated and I pray that the bonds of affection, friendship, and spiritual union can and will overcome any disagreements or discord.

Given the many challenges Trinity and the nation have experienced, I am happy to relate that we have attracted some newer and younger persons (along with their dogs) to our outdoor Eucharists. This is a good thing and although we must remain socially distant, please introduce yourselves to them and form new bonds of friendship and care. Thank goodness Trinity is not like most Episcopal churches that are God's frozen people. In fact, many of you are holding what I call "porch church" where 4-6 people meet on one another's porch every now and then. It is a smaller version of coffee hour and yet it maintains the communal bonds and defines what it means to be the Church. These gatherings emulate the Church in its earliest days where St. Paul started house churches as related in the Book of Acts.

Recently, Trinity hosted Porchfest, a musical festival that travelled throughout Apalachicola. It was a great success and raised a few thousand dollars for the Humane Society. It also brought joy and renewed the bonds of friendship and allowed some folks who hadn't seen one another for months to catch up with one another. Porchfest is another example of how the ministry of the church is to build community. I hope all who attended had a great time. It was a little taste of normal; that state of being for which we all yearn.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention how much I miss and appreciate all of the ministers whose ministries have been suspended or put on hold. I also want to thank Kay Carson for her editing and publishing of the *Bay View* every other week. I have enjoyed working with our Vestry, Finance Committee, and other committees; yet, I also very much miss working with the lay readers, LEM's, the flower guild, the acolytes, Sunday School, and every other group of ministers who make this congregation a loving community and allow it to thrive, including our six new office volunteers.

I am aware that this report is getting long and has not touched on half of what has happened during this Great Pause. I hope you will forgive me if I did not mention something important to you and I pray you know how important the bonds of affection that we have formed are, and that I realize that this year has caused a strain. With that in mind, I leave you with the following quote from the PBS series *Call the Midwife*:

*"Sometimes only when bonds are tested, do we understand their strength.
There are ties that endure a lifetime, no matter how frayed by fate.
We can walk away and pretend that we forget them."*

Pain passes in the end.

*Or, we can step into the future, blessed and stronger than before,
because when faced with change, our love held fast and didn't break.
Our lives were not severed but woven anew.*

And our joy is not halved: but doubled."

As this year of change weaves us anew, may the coming year find your joy
and Trinity's doubled. With gratitude, I offer you my love and pray
God's peace be upon you and those dear to you.

Eric +

Church Governance & Operations

Vestry *The Vestry is a nine-member body, elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. The Vestry oversees, in conjunction with the Rector, the temporal duties and workings of the church. Each member is elected for three years.*

Senior Warden Report:

This past year has been quite a nightmare in many ways. What began in January/February with the pandemic has continued through the year and will go on until at least next March.

Overall, everything is still going well, with our Saturday and Sunday outside services averaging 25 attendees at each service.

Financially we are very secure for this year and pledge cards have been mailed for 2021. I ask that you continue to support Trinity this coming year, as you always have in the past.

Father Zile has had a very strange first year, but it has been quite wonderful with his determination to make Trinity Church continue to be the "cornerstone of Faith and Community". Thank you all for your continued support and your continual efforts to make Trinity such a special place.

2021 will bring many exciting challenges and many new opportunities for all of us. Trinity is a wonderful place and you all make it that way.

-- Lee Bettis

Junior Warden Report:

This year has been an uneventful and somewhat progressive year due to Covid-19 and other extenuating circumstances. Thankfully at this time, all Trinity Church buildings are in pretty good condition.

Some of the projects completed this year:

- *Painting of church parking area.
- *Rebuilding window framework at Penny's Worth (AC).
- *Parish house attic fan motor and belt replaced.
- *Major clean up of yard, fence and alley at Penny's Worth.

Projects for future:

- *Parish house exhaust fan motor to be replaced (bearings).
- *Replacement of red altar ropes.
- *Interior of church painted (was postponed due to Covid and labor force issues).

Thanks to my Trinity family for allowing me to serve as your Junior Warden.

-- Charles Galloway

Finance *It is the mission and responsibility of the Trinity Finance Committee to assist the Vestry, hence the family of Trinity, by matching available resources with projected expenditures so as to accomplish priorities as manifested through worship, stewardship of facilities, outreach and a myriad of other activities deemed appropriate by the Vestry.*

Finance Committee:

Members of the Finance Committee for 2020 are: Toonie Waddell, Kim Davis, CT Ponder, Kirk Hadaway, Lee Bettis, Ron Bence, Tom Edwards and Ralph Wagoner. Fr. Zile is always invited to attend. I cannot begin to say enough positive things about this group. They love Trinity and are constantly mindful of their responsibilities to the welfare of our worshipers, our facilities and our community.

The 2020 year has been a crazy one to summarize in a brief annual report. We got off to a wonderful beginning through January and February with the exception our endowment and quasi-endowment funds, which took a significant negative hit. Those funds are invested with the National Episcopal Church Foundation. I am happy to report that as of early November 2020 the downturn has been reversed and we are back on track.

Then the “bug” hit and things rapidly changed: services moved outside; with services changed came a subsequent decrease in plate income though pledged income remained constant and “out of the blue” gifts increased; and, some expenditure items were reduced for the short-term (e.g. Shannon left the Administrative Assistant position; utility and maintenance expenditures were reduced to lack of use). It is now November and the end is not in sight as we await directives from the office of the Bishop.

The 2021 projected budget is, at best, an educated guess: we project a significant loss of income of approximately \$53,000. This guess reflects no income from the Tour of Homes; approximately a \$26,000 shortfall in receipts from Penny's Worth (*assumption*

is we will have several months of income from Penny's Worth late in 2021); and, reduction in rental income. To compensate, we tentatively trimmed personnel costs in the Administrative Assistant budget line, reduced some general maintenance, utilities, and office/administration costs. At present we have attempted to provide more than an adequate amount of resources for our historic facilities. We dare not renege on our commitment to preserve the physical assets of our historic physical plant!

In short, as of this writing, we are projecting a \$53,000 reduction of income somewhat offset by a \$35,000 reduction in expenditures. This would result in a deficit of \$18,000. We project a cash balance of \$42,000 at the end of fiscal 2020. Given this cash balance, we have sufficient resources to get us through the 2021 year if the projected income and expenditure projections were to come to fruition.

In spite of a very unforeseeable fiscal 2021, once the projected pledge income for 2021 has been secured, the Finance Committee, in concert with the Vestry, will finalize a budget for the 2021 year. *And yes, despite all of this we are upright, we worship and we serve!*

-- *Ralph Wagoner*

Endowment *The Endowment/Gift Committee oversees the various church funds that are invested through the Diocese. These include the Trinity Endowment Fund, the Restoration and Preservation Trust, the Young Bequest Fund, the Maintenance Reserve Fund, the Henry and Pearl Marshall Trust, and the Genevieve Marshall Altar Fund. Quarterly reports are distributed to the Vestry.*

Endowment Committee:

The assets overseen by the Endowment/Gift Committee continue to be invested through a fund provided by the Diocese. These assets include the Young Bequest Fund, the Restoration and Preservation Trust, the Trinity Endowment Fund, the Herbert and Pearl Marshall Trust, the Genevieve Marshall Altar Fund and the Maintenance Reserve Fund.

The Diocese reports investment results on a quarterly basis, cumulative from the first of the year. Therefore, this report is inclusive through the first nine months of 2020. All funds have a small negative loss (-2%) through the third quarter - including the Young Fund and the Herbert & Pearl Marshall Fund (the only ones from which distributions have been taken this year).

A final accounting will be available once year's end results are in. These will be reported to the vestry and posted on the Vestry Bulletin Board.

-- *Tom Edwards*

Communications *The goal of our communications effort is to strengthen the commitment and involvement of our congregation, as well as welcome new and diverse members, and increase community involvement, to keep Trinity viable into the next century.*

Communications:

During 2020, the *Bay View*, Trinity's **e-newsletter** continued its bi-weekly publication schedule, keeping members and friends informed of Trinity's plans and activities. It goes out via email, along with some mail distribution, to over 250 Trinity parishioners and friends. Content includes church activities, community service and entertainment opportunities, and photos of members' travel adventures, as well as family visits.

The *Special News* and *From the Rector* formats allow for on-demand distribution when we have time-sensitive information to communicate, including timely and urgent notices, including death announcements, parishioner needs/health updates, stewardship reflections, and special services.

Currently, 58% of readers access the *Bay View* on their desktop computers, while 42% read it on their mobile devices/tablets. We enjoy an 'open rate' (people who open the email) of 63%, which is higher than the industry average of 43%.

During this pandemic year, we have published Trinity's weekly services, including Eric's sermons, on YouTube, and have distributed them through *From the Rector* email, as well as on our website, and on our Facebook page.

Our **website**, www.trinityapalachicola.org, serves as a basis for our external communications, and features Trinity's rich history, as well as information on worship and spiritual growth; parish and community life; and, news/special events. Just over 230 visitors/month accessed the website during 2020, and 82% were new visits, signifying a widening interest in Trinity. The Tour of Homes website, www.apalachicolahometour.org, drew an average of 100 monthly visitors prior to the cancellation due to COVID-19, with 80% representing new visits.

On our **Facebook page**, @trinityapalachicola, we provide a community-wide presence where we promote traditional events, as well as special worship services on the liturgical calendar. We have 370 Facebook followers, including members, friends, and local residents. On our Tour of Homes page (@ApalachicolaHomeTour), we have 1,202 followers, which reflects the widespread popularity of this annual event.

Trinity's online **Church Directory**, featuring photographs, as well as current contact information, enables members to quickly obtain phone numbers, addresses, and emails that streamline one-on-one communication. The mobile **apps** and a direct computer link to the directory make it even more accessible, allowing users to call, text, or email directly from the member listings.

With the resignation of our Parish Administrator earlier this year, we have established a volunteer **Office Squad**, working three days a week, to take calls, print weekly service bulletins, and perform other necessary administrative tasks. Initial Squad members include Marlene Seaborn, Susan Galloway, Ralph Wagoner, Patti McCartney, Martha Harris, and Rennie Edwards.

-- Kay Carson

Church Programs & Committees

Christian Formation Various opportunities for spiritual growth are available in the Trinity community, including Adult Discussion on Sunday morning, concentrating on the Week's lectionary, Monday School, a book discussion group; Centering Prayer; Education for Ministry, a four year program of adult Christian formation in community using theological education and reflection; Outback Bible Study, a weekly dinner and discussion gathering held in various homes in South Gulf County.

Outback Study Group:

This activity is an outgrowth of the Foyer Groups. The group was founded by the late Jim Anderson. We have been meeting, faithfully, for well over six years. This group meets every other Thursday evening around 7 pm. Before COVID-19, we met in the homes of the members. During the current epidemic, we are meeting via Zoom. In the non-Covid times, the size of the group varied from 7 to 20. During the COVID time, we average 10 viewers. We have members from several denominations and this gives us a wide variety of experiences and viewpoints. It is interesting to note that we usually have two or more priests in the viewing audience. We have studied Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Romans, Corinthians, Paul's letters, Psalms, and other relevant books. Currently, we are studying C.S. Lewis's *The Great Divorce*. Usually, we meet, socialize, eat (in non-COVID times), and then discuss.

Faith Sharing:

The inspiration for this activity came from Pat Horn. During non-COVID times, we meet in the Annex Conference Room at 6:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. We conclude the meetings by 8 pm. We are a small, but dedicated, group that meets to share their faith stories. At each meeting, we have a presenter who starts off the meeting with their story or topic. We then get input from the other members. We listen deeply and honor the confidentiality of each person's story. We are currently on hiatus due to the epidemic. Hopefully, we will resume when it is safe to do so.

-- Landy Luther

Education for Ministry:

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year distance learning certificate program in theological education based upon small-group study and practice, offered by the University of the South, Sewanee, TN. EfM helps participants discover the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experiences of the world as they study, worship and engage in theological reflection together.

Trinity had six participants in this program in the academic year 2019-2020, two in Year One, one in Year Two, and three in year Three. Due to COVID-19 concerns, we began meeting via Zoom in March 2020, and finished our program in May, with co-mentors Martha Harris and Carol Wood. Carol retired from her mentor role at that time, due to increased responsibilities as moderator and pastor to First Presbyterian Church, Wewahitchka, FL. She did an excellent job as mentor and will be missed.

For the year 2020-2021 we are offering somewhat of a gap year we are calling EfM-Q (Q for Quarantine). Martha Harris and Penny Marler have invited all present and past EfM students, as well as a few prospective students, to participate in reading and reflecting on a variety of topics, changing monthly, and modeled on the curriculum of EfM, including Old and New Testament studies, Church history, and ethics. We currently have 11 participants. We hope to continue with the EfM program next September if we are able to do so safely and in person.

-- *Martha Harris*

Tai Chi:

The 9 am (experienced) class meets Wednesday in Benedict Hall. Tai Chi, a form of ancient Chinese Martial Art, is a no impact, slow motion body and mind training. Practitioners benefit in the areas of balance, overall muscle tone, lowered stress, and mental clarity. There is no beginner's class this year.

Centering Prayer:

The Centering Prayer group is not currently gathering, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

-- *Randy Mims*

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Every woman in the Episcopal Church is automatically a member of ECW. At Trinity, there are no dues and only one or two organizational meetings each year. The Episcopal Church Women serve as hostesses for the community at events such as funeral receptions and special meetings. They will lead fund-raising efforts (their own and other groups' efforts). The ECW is a worldwide organization that supports young women in the church through college scholarships.

While the ECW did not have any meetings in 2020 due to COVID-19, the group donated \$2,000.00 to Trinity Episcopal Church in May; gave a \$100.00 Graduation Gift to our former Parish Administrator's daughter, Adrienne Pruitt; and sent \$200 and the Franklin County Food Pantry.

ECW maintains a bank balance of \$3,891.07; considering its annual donations to: Priest Discretionary Fund, Priest Christmas Gift, Bishop Dollar, Wilbur Hall Orphanage, Episcopal International Relief & Development, and Suwanee Theological School.

-- *Carole Brazsky*

Outreach *The Outreach ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church is dedicated to assist in meeting the needs of those in Franklin County and throughout the Bend Big of Florida. Quarterly meetings, open to all, are held to identify needs and plan accordingly. Trinity's congregation is highly supportive of activities and contributes generously to minister to those in the area.*

Outreach Committee:

In January the Outreach Ministry found that assistance with food continued to be a primary community need. By March the COVID-19 pandemic plunged the community even deeper in need. Trinity continued its monthly financial support to the Apalachicola Food Bank while more than 9,000 pounds of food were donated to support local groups providing food bank services and/or meals. Additional funds and food are also supplied at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Prior to the Pandemic, the Vestry approved awarding an annual scholarship of \$1,000 to a Franklin County senior. This year's recipient is now a student at Tallahassee Community College.

Educational support became a focus of a "COVID-19 pod" meeting on a member's porch. Trinity members of the "pod" worked with several local leaders and with the Matchbox to provide transitional skills to high school students. Additionally, two laptops were refurbished and donated to two graduating Franklin County seniors.

The Blessing of the Animals was able to continue outdoors. Father Eric blessed the animals and the ashes of others.

Long known as Trinity's face to the community, Penny's Worth Thrift Store celebrated its 28th year although a pause in operation was required. *Penny's Worth ministry is described in detail in a separate section of Trinity's Annual Report.*

-- *Marlene Seaborn*

Penny's Worth *Penny's Worth is a Thrift Shop operated by Trinity, offering the community affordable slightly used clothing and household items. Proceeds go to Trinity's outreach programs and a variety of local charities.*

Penny's Worth, a popular shopping destination for local and regular customers as well as tourists, winter visitors, and shoppers within a 100-mile radius, closed to the public in mid-March, due to guidance from Bishop Kendrick as a result the

Coronavirus pandemic. While there is not yet any firm plan on a re-opening strategy, Penny's Worth looks forward to once again serving the community once COVID-19 is no longer a threat to our health.

As a seasonal service to the community, Penny's Worth will hold a special Christmas Décor & Gift Sale during Thanksgiving weekend. Sale items will be displayed in the back yard for customers to browse and purchase, on Friday, November 27, 12 noon – 4 pm and on Saturday, November 28, 9 am – 3 pm.

Earlier this year, Penny's Worth volunteers and customers were saddened at the death of Myra Ponder, its long-time Treasurer and devoted volunteer. Current Board members include 'T' McLain, Dot Hill, Jane Harris, Shirley Taylor, Charlie Galloway, Nancy Luther, Mary Ann Siprell, Kirk Hadaway (*Treasurer*), and the Rev. Eric Zile (*Ex-Officio*).

Parish Life *The mission of Parish Life is to provide hospitality for all who participate in our lives together. The Parish Life Committee Chairperson initiates the scheduling, planning and coordination of these special events: A Lenten dinner, Foyer Groups, Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner and the Annual meeting dinner. As is characteristic of Trinity, there are many people who participate and contribute to the various events so the work is shared among many.*

Parish Life Committee:

The Parish Life committee started the year with our annual Pancake Supper with Mardi Gras embellishments on Tuesday, February 25th. Bella and George Rudo did a wonderful job, with lots of help, coordinating that event. As Lent progressed, COVID-19 restrictions prohibited indoor gatherings and social events. Thus, most of our planned events were cancelled.

The Foyer Groups organized early in the year. Foyer groups are composed of 8-12 people who usually meet in members' homes for dinner with each person or couple taking a turn to host the event. These events are purely social occasions, involving good food and good conversation. We began the year with four groups that met at least once before COVID-19 restrictions took place. A couple of the groups met later in the year with ingenious outdoor and socially distanced dinners or cocktail hour meetings.

One outdoor benefit was organized by Parish Life, in Gorrie Square in front of the church, in June. Martha Gherardi Watson, our organist, donated her time and talent, and played a short concert of violin pieces on the church porch. Guests brought their own chairs and sat at the appropriate social distance from others. Donations of \$600 were given to the Franklin County Food Pantry.

Committee members include Lane Autrey, Lee Bettis, Rennie Edwards, MarthHarris, Penny Marler, Patti McCartney, Bella and George Rudo, Candace Springer, and Joy Tracy. We hope to resume a near-full schedule of parish events in 2021.

-- Mickey Harris

Tour of Homes *The Historic Apalachicola Home & Garden Tour, a key community project of Trinity, is held annually on the first Saturday in May. The Tour features gardens and historic homes, as well as new homes that capture Apalachicola's past. All proceeds are used to maintain Trinity's historic structures.*

In mid-March the 2020 Historic Apalachicola Tour of Homes & Gardens was cancelled due to COVID-19. All home and garden owners and sub-committee chairs were surveyed prior to this decision that was ultimately made by the Vestry after much discussion and prayer. Proceeds from this event benefit Trinity Episcopal Church as related to the preservation and maintenance of its historic buildings.

Due to current extraordinary times we were not able to provide the usual robust donation; however, we were able to give the Vestry/Finance Committee the money raised by the Pillar Program and the remaining "seed" money that totals \$14,454. These funds come with the understanding that Trinity will provide "seed" money (\$8,200) for the next Historic Apalachicola Home & Garden Tour, without interest.

There will be a meeting of the sub-committee chairs in January or February to determine the possibility of a 2021 Historic Apalachicola Tour of Homes & Gardens.

-- Karen Kessel

Worship *The worship committee consists of the chairpersons of the different groups that participate in our services. This includes the altar guild, flower guild, lay eucharistic ministers, acolytes, lay readers, and music. This committee assists the rector by meeting with these chairpersons and coordinating the schedules of all aspects of our worship service.*

The Worship Committee, consisting of the chairperson's of the various groups and the Rector, involved in planning and executing the logistics of our worship service, has experienced an unusual 2020. Along with everyone who participates in the corporate worship at Trinity, committee commitments have had to adjust to changes brought about this year due to COVID-19.

During Epiphany, we had an abundance of participation by acolytes, lectors, lay eucharistic ministers (LEMS), ushers, altar guild, flower guild, and our verger. Everything was running quite smoothly for both services. In February, Trinity weathered the illness of our Rector, as Martha Harris and Liz and Ralph Groskoph willingly filled in for three weeks as celebrants and preachers. Plans for Lent were underway when Bishop Kendrick issued his ecclesiastical edict on March 13 to cease all worship services and meetings so that we might mitigate the spread of the pandemic by using recommended methods to protect ourselves, and each other, from the virus. So began the season of Lent. No corporate worship; no physical contact with others; no meetings except the support groups; at least until Easter. The season of Lent was a time to anticipate moving forward while suspending all of our lay ministries. The original hope was to be able to worship together on Easter but that soon became untenable.

Thanks to Rennie Edwards and Gary Niblack, we were able to receive handmade palm crosses placed on the steps of the church and palms were laid on the sidewalk and steps for us to visually experience a small part of Palm Sunday. We were unable to open for Easter as well, but the Flower Guild enhanced the steps of the church with the lovely lilies that we have come to enjoy. During this time, Eric was on the rectory porch every Sunday, 8-11 am to administer Holy Eucharist to those who came. Social distancing and safety measures were observed.

Also thanks to Grady Escobar, Eric began videoing inside the church as he held a service with no participants present. After Grady had to leave to return to school, Eric did "self production" on his computer and emailed the services to Kay Carson who ensured that everyone with a computer was able to see the service. Finally, in June we were able to worship together under strict conditions: no more than 25 at a time in Benedict Hall, masks required, chairs 6 feet apart, using only individually wrapped wafers for Eucharist. The Altar Guild assisted Eric during this time, but no other ministries were needed to participate. Both a Saturday 5:00pm service and a Sunday 10:00 am service were made available.

In July the decision was made to move the worship outside to Gorrie Square. Everyone brought their own chairs as we socially distanced and donned masks. Eric celebrated from the porch of the church and practiced all safety precautions, including shield and gloves, when delivering the Body of Christ to the communicants seated in the square. The Altar Guild continued assisting. Eventually music, with no singing, was added. Randy Mims provided an outside speaker so the piano and organ played by Martha Watson could be heard. Occasionally, we were treated to a solo by Randy. The outdoor worship brings reverence and joy to our uncertain world.

At the writing of this report for the annual meeting, we anticipate Advent and Christmas to be about the same: outside for good weather, inside the church for cold or rain. Sadly, little lay participation is needed for now. That is part of our sacrifice. We do not know what Epiphany and Lent will bring next year. But we do know, whatever comes, we are strong as a Parish and we will continue to pray for one another; be faithful members of Trinity Church; and look forward to that special day when we can all worship together inside our treasured and holy sanctuary. Our Bishop has called us to transcend the challenges, make the necessary sacrifices, and continue with our unity in worship. ***We Will, With God's Help.***

-- Patti McCartney

Altar Guild:

Despite the disruptions that 2020 has visited on all our lives, Trinity's Altar Guild has faithfully continued its ministry of caring for the altar, vessels, and linens and preparing the sanctuary (be it inside or out!) for services. We have had to make some adjustment to how things are done, but all has gone smoothly.

With the reduction in the activity at the church, we have been able to keep our expenses at a minimum. That will change in the near future, however, as we transition from wax

candles to oil candles. That will require an initial expense but will be much more cost effective in the long run. Many of these special projects are funded by memorial gifts and the Genevieve Marshal Fund, but we welcome any additional contributions.

One of the downsides to the changes brought on by the pandemic is that we have lost four of our members. If you have any interest in joining this ministry, please contact Eric or any current Altar Guild member: Rennie Edwards (Chair), Susan Galloway, Candace Springer, Susie Wagoner, Jane Harris, Gloria Austin, and T McLain.

ALTAR GUILD PRAYER

*O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst accept the ministry of faithful women
during your earthly life,*

*We pray you to accept and bless the work that this altar guild
undertakes in the care of your sanctuary.*

*Grant us a spirit of reverence
for your house and worship,
your Word and Sacraments
and preserve in purity and holiness
our own souls and bodies
as living temples of Your presence.*

Amen

-- *Rennie Edwards*

Music Committee:

2020 has been a difficult year for the Trinity Choir and Music program. During the months of January through the beginning of March we were enjoying an active Choir program and leading worship with up to 14 members. We even had learned some special new anthems. "Beneath The Cross" was performed with Martha Gherardi (now Watson) on the piano, Dodie Alber and Randy Mims, flute, with the Trinity choir. There is a video of this performance that can be found on Youtube.

With the advent of COVID-19 and the Bishop's ban on choral and congregational singing, we have all spent the past months longing once again to raise our voices in praise of our Lord.

Special thanks to Martha Watson, Randy Mims, and Carol Harris for bringing us the joy of music for our open air Church Services.

-- *Randy Mims*