



The Trinity Herald



Trinity Episcopal Church
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MARCH 2021 In This Issue

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As I write this, the weather has turned beautifully warm and birds are singing outside. The signs of spring are popping up everywhere. It is hard not to get excited by the warmer weather, sunshine, and greening nature. It feels as if we are finally turning the corner in the pandemic too. Vaccines are becoming available for more and more people and new case numbers continue to decline in our area. The vestry and I are looking to re-open for in-person worship in late spring, with the possibility of meeting outside initially. This news too is cause for excitement, even as we continue to remain vigilant about our safety measures.

As we mark the one-year anniversary of our church buildings being closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we recognize and give thanks for the many and varied ways in which God has been active in our community and continued to guide us in our ministry. God has not only sustained our ministries but has allowed us to expand them to meet the growing needs of our community. This has been possible because the members of parish have continued to be faithful to the call of God in our lives.



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THE TRINITY HERALD
is published quarterly in
March, June, September
and December by Trinity
Episcopal Church,
Woodbridge, NJ

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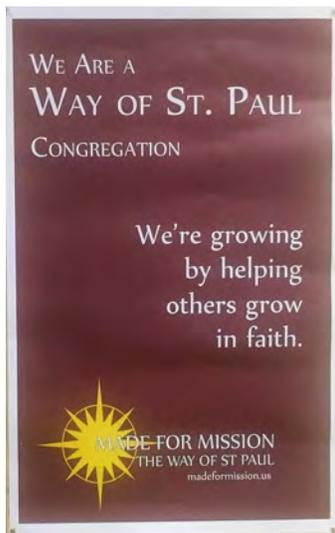
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The challenge of being faithful to God's call for us is often one of listening. It is not always easy to know what God is asking of us. I think one of the gifts of this time has been the opportunity to slow down and be deliberate about our prayer and discernment in what God is calling us to: individually, as a parish, as a Diocese and as a denomination. As a parish, we have been all too aware of the need for some thing(s) to change. Yet change is not easy, and the unknown is uncomfortable, so we put it off.

However, the pandemic has made procrastination no longer an option. It highlighted some of the changes that we needed to make in order to maintain connection with a growingly digital world. It has also highlighted the need to become more flexible in meeting the needs of our congregation and the wider community. It has led to greater interdependence with local congregations and allowed us to become clearer about what is important to us as Trinity.

In addition to those simpler changes, the vestry and I have been engaged in discernment about the possibility of affiliation with St. James in Edison. This affiliation would allow for better stewardship of our resources but it obviously comes with some important and possibly difficult changes. This discernment and conversation now has been expanded to the whole congregation and we are continuing to pray that God shows us the path that Trinity is called to follow. As with all changes, this potential change can be scary and can make us question what the future looks like.

The truth is that none of us knows what the future will look like. We do not know the full impact that the pandemic will have upon Trinity. Like many pivotal moments of the past, when the pandemic is finally behind us, things will not return to the way they were. In my estimation though, that is not necessarily a terrible thing. In order to grow, we must change. This is an opportunity to do some growing and changing that will allow us to faithfully continue God's call to us as a congregation.

Spring time is not only filled with the promise of new life, it is also often filled with mud. Not everything about the change in seasons is pleasant. The same is true with growing in life. Some days what we are called to let go of is clear and the path ahead seems sure. Some days the letting go is difficult and the path ahead seems impossible to see let alone navigate. This is where prayer and discernment come in. We must continually come before God, asking not only to be shown what we are called to do, but to be given the courage and the strength to do it.

Mother Angie



Diocese Helps Find Vaccination Appointments

A new Task Force from the Diocese of New Jersey is assisting at-risk people in the community to get access to Covid-19 vaccines. Fill out a brief form and our team of volunteers will begin working to find you an appointment.

[Request help getting the vaccine](#)



Difficulty in getting the vaccine underscores the disparity of privilege in American health care. Many at-risk individuals who are eligible for the vaccine have been unable to get an appointment due to a lack of Internet access or time to be able to wait for online scheduling systems; others have been able to skip the line because they have connections or influence. This new ministry, chaired by the Rev. Marshall Shelly, St. Peter's Spotswood, seeks to redress this disparity. A number of local church ministries have already begun this work; the Diocese is helping to bring the ministry statewide.

The program is open to all, regardless of church affiliation. The focus is on getting the vaccine to those most in need.

Want to volunteer for this ministry to help others register for the vaccine?

[Fill out this form to volunteer](#)



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICE SCHEDULE

All services will be held only on Zoom and Facebook Live

March 28: Palm Sunday, 10 a.m.

(The Way of St. Paul team will deliver palms and devotional materials to congregants' homes after the service)

March 31: Tenebrae, 7 p.m. (joint service with St. James, Edison, St. Luke's, Metuchen, and St. Peter's, Perth Amboy)

April 1: Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m.

April 2: Good Friday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.;

Way of the Cross, noon

April 3: Easter Vigil, 8 p.m.

April 4: Easter, 10 a.m.



The Way of St. Paul team has worked since January exploring what it means to have a personal rule of life. We have tried out a variety of activities and come up with a list from which you can choose to develop your own rule of life.

Members of the team are Jeanne Boyle, Mother Angela Cipolla, David Forsythe, Allyson Morgan, Janet Temchus and Carroll Thomas. Serving as coach for the team is Mother Anne-Marie Jeffery, Rector of St. Peter's, Perth Amboy.

Beyond the Pages



Trinity's faith-based book club, *Beyond the Pages*, is meeting monthly on Sunday afternoons. Meetings are behind held on Zoom. They provide an opportunity to gather with fellow readers and to enhance your spiritual understanding through literature.

Beyond the Pages discussed C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity* on Feb. 28 and William P. Young's *The Shack* on March 21. Information about the club's meetings and books is regularly included in "This Week at Trinity," our weekly email. Contact Mother Angie for more details.

Inquiring Hearts

Our adult-education group, *Inquiring Hearts*, meets on Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. Details are provided in "This Week at Trinity."

Mother Angie is currently leading a Lenten journey of reflection on the cross by comparing and contrasting various artistic interpretations of the crucifixion. Art speaks in ways that words cannot. The significance of Jesus' death on the cross is a complex and difficult-to-understand topic, yet it is central to our faith and therefore important to wrestle with. All are welcome to join us in doing so.

Rule of Life Initiative

Why have a rule of life? As Presiding Bishop Michael Curry reminds us in his book "Love is the Way": "To live into our faith and values, we need to bring intentionality and purpose to every day - and that's where what's called a rule of life comes in to support us."

We invite you to join us in the joy and peace that following a rule of life brings. Please look over our list and pick out any three items that you can and will undertake everyday. As well, of course, please share with us what gems you have that we might be missing.

- * Worship with Morning and/or Evening Prayer
- * Pray the Anglican rosary
- * Listen to Christian music and praise God while driving/commuting
- * Pray the Daughters of the King prayer while putting on the DOK cross
- * Read the Forward Day by Day meditation and respond to its prayer requests
- * Reflect upon the daily tweets from Trinity Church
- * Subscribe to a daily Bible verse service and reflect on each verse received
- * Read the newspaper and pray for those who passed away and their families
- * Respond to prayer requests from Episcopalians on Facebook
- * Participate in the Episcopal Public Policy Network and contact elected officials on issues of the Episcopal Church
- * Pray daily via email with the brothers of the Society of St. John the Evangelist
- * Pray when you learn news, both happy and sad, of others, especially friends and fellow parishioners, newsmakers
- * Pray for family, friends, and the world
- * Be mindful of Christ in all others
- * Make all with whom you come in contact with feel heard and loved

God bless you, every one.



Sunday School

Hello families! Hopefully everyone who wanted the package of Lenten Lessons received one. Packages for Holy Week and Easter are about to go out. If you do not receive one prior to Palm Sunday please contact me directly at allison.l.murray@gmail.com.

We wish the children a blessed Easter and hope that we will see them for outdoor lessons later this spring. We would use the same set-up we had in the fall to do a series of crafts explaining the stories of Moses, found in the Book of Exodus. Until then, all our Sunday School families are in our prayers.



Wednesday Dinner and a Prayer

Every Wednesday at 4 p.m., Trinity is offering a hot dinner and a prayer to anyone who wishes to partake. Drive through the parking lot to receive yours!

Friday Hot Lunch Program

Every Friday at 11a.m., a hot lunch from a local restaurant is served via drive-through distribution. If you know of any people in need of a hot meal, please refer them to this weekly program.





Outreach Ministries

Trinity helps carry out God's work in the world and meet the needs of the local community through feeding and diaper programs and other outreach efforts. We have operated as a Jubilee Ministry Center, designated by the Episcopal Church for our support of the poor and oppressed, since 2015.

Trinity is grateful to have been selected for funding by the Network Investment Initiative, run by the Community Food Bank of New Jersey on behalf of the New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund and its funding partners, Mercer Street Friends and Norwescap. The program is designed to help food pantries and soup kitchens serve more people in need during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

Our feeding ministries have been awarded a \$6,800 grant for improvements at St. Martha's House as part of a \$2 million statewide commitment from the initiative. The grant will be used for new windows on the first floor of St. Martha's House, where the Food Pantry operates, along with storage shelves and related items.

Terms of the grant require us to spend the money by June 1. We are in the process of selecting a contractor for the windows. They must be custom made because St. Martha's, a building on the state and national registers of historic places, doesn't have windows in standard sizes.

We look forward to showing you the new windows and other improvements in the next edition of the Herald. Until then, pray for the work now being done by our feeding ministries, for the recipients of our help, and for the volunteers who make it all happen.



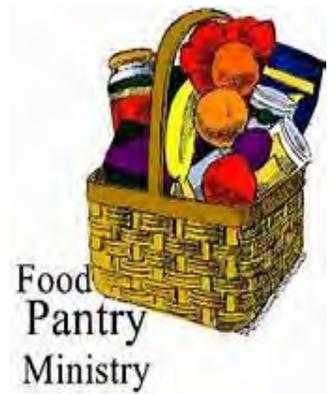
NEW JERSEY
PANDEMIC
RELIEF FUND





Volunteer Opportunity

Your Food Pantry ministry is in need of several volunteers to enable us to efficiently service and fulfill a most important role in our community. The number of people in need of our support is ever increasing.



Volunteers will pack and distribute food baskets. They will be able to experience the gratifying satisfaction and pride that helping other brings.

The pantry is traditionally open on the 1st Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursdays from 10 a.m to 11 a.m. Currently, the pantry is operating every Thursday and Saturday.

If you can spare a few hours on those days, please consider joining us. For further information or to volunteer, please contact Carroll Thomas.

Donations Wanted

Food Pantry

These food items are in demand: Canned chicken, canned meats, stew (low sodium), canned and dry pasta, macaroni and cheese, rice, dry beans (black, red, pinto), vegetables, fruits, cereal, granola bars. Household items also in demand: Paper products, soap, shampoo, toothpaste.



Diaper Bank

Our diaper program always needs children's disposable diapers, especially smaller sizes, and baby wipes. You may drop them off starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday or 11 a.m. on Friday. You may also purchase items through AmazonSmile so they are delivered automatically.

THANK YOU for your continued support!



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FAQs

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL SIGN-UP FEES TO ENROLL?

No. There are no enrollment charges, no hidden fees, and no long-term commitment. Cancel at any time without penalty.

WILL I STILL BE A PSE&G COSTUMER

Yes, you will stay with your current utility provider, but your bill will be reduced.

DO I NEED TO OWN MY HOME OR APARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE?

No. Renters and owners alike have access to clean energy and savings with our solar energy.

HOW DO I SIGN UP? WHEN CAN I START?

Right away! Go to GoSolarLandscape.com or call 732-456-5656. Our bilingual team is ready to support your needs.



Corner

Trinity is grateful to all who responded to our stewardship campaign for 2021. Your financial support is essential as we seek to serve our congregants and our local community.

If your circumstances have changed and you are unable to fulfill your pledge, please contact us as soon as possible. Our Stewardship chair, Nancy Milochik, and Mother Angie can help you adjust your commitment.

Thanks to everyone who have taken advantage of our online-giving platform, Givebutter, to set up and fulfill your pledge. It's linked to our home page for convenience. Look for a red Donate button along the upper right-hand side of the page. Click on it and you will see three "active campaigns" -- 2021 Pledge, Special Envelope Donations and Holiday Donations -- that together cover all our traditional offering envelopes. The Holiday Donations campaign may be especially useful as you prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

As Mother Angie wrote in her latest stewardship letter:

"We admit that we have no idea what the future will bring. We are going through global times that have never been faced before. What we do know is that with your help and support Trinity Church will continue to be a beacon of faith and hope. We are asking you to renew your support for our mission and ministries for 2021. Please look deeply and reflect on what you can do to help ensure the future of Trinity Church. You hold the key to our success."



A HUMAN EXPERIENCE

By Tina Chaves



Every night I spend time reading the Bible with a delicious cup of flavored coffee. I find it enhances my time spent with God and even makes it fun. I love the idea of having a cup of coffee with Jesus and I imagine myself sitting in a coffee shop chit-chatting with my Savior as we happily enjoy a tasty cup of piping hot joe.

It causes me to think of Jesus in terms of His humanity, and I can't help but marvel at how much Jesus can actually relate to our human experience. I mean, He got hungry, thirsty, and tired. He got frustrated, He cried, and He also had fun at parties with his friends. He was even tempted to sin, though He never gave into those temptations. Ultimately, He suffered and died...the fate of all humanity. But then...then...on that first Easter morn, He rose from the dead and conquered the grave for all of those who believe! What a glorious day!

I'm already looking forward to the day when I can enjoy a yummy cup of flavored coffee with my Savior in person and not just in spirit, all because He is no longer dead but is alive! He is still human, He is glorified and He is risen! And one day that will be just another human experience we believers will be able to relate to with our Lord! He is risen indeed!

Happy Easter to you all!!!!

Love & prayers...Tina

Remembering the Sick

Trinity prays for the sick and the suffering at weekend services, during the Prayer of the People. In order to keep our prayer list up to date, names of those in need of our prayers will be included for four weeks at a time.



You may add names to the prayer list or renew names already on the list by calling our prayer request line at 732-634-7422, ext. 100, or by sending an email to Mother Angie at rector@trinitywoodbridge.org. You are encouraged to mention a name aloud as you gather with the parish community for worship and we hope that you will feel free to do so.



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Address Correction Requested

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