



The Messenger

Trinity Episcopal Church, Columbus, Georgia

The Rev. Dr. Timothy H. Graham, Rector

The Rev. Andrew C. Blakemore, Associate Rector

Joseph Golden, Organist & Choirmaster

Dr. Aesook Moon, Associate Organist & Choirmaster

May 2023

From the Rector

The Rev. Dr. Timothy H. Graham

Dear friends,

As a part of my employment agreement with you I am eligible for a three-month sabbatical after completing six years of employment. This benefit is a standard requirement for all clergy in the Diocese of Atlanta. At present I have been your rector for over 10 years, and a series of circumstances have prevented me from taking this earned sabbatical thus far. I am excited to announce that I intend to finally take my sabbatical beginning this summer. Our parish life is now vibrant and strong, and this seems like a perfect time for me to step aside for some refreshment and renewal. In this letter I will anticipate some of your questions and provide answers.

Q. What is a sabbatical?

A. A period of paid leave usually granted to a college teacher or clergy for study or travel. The concept of sabbatical is rooted in the Fourth Commandment where God created a space for rest from work.

Q. How will the sabbatical be funded?

A. The Trinity Vestry has allocated special funds to cover the expense of this sabbatical. The vestry allocation will also provide some necessary support and relief for Father Andy.

Q. When will the sabbatical take place?

A. The sabbatical will extend from the first of June until the end of August 2023. I will also take a couple of weeks of earned vacation before the sabbatical begins, so my last Sunday before the break will be May 14, 2023.

Q. What are my plans for sabbatical?

A. The sabbatical will consist of three extended trips for spiritual renewal, education and rest. The first part of the sabbatical will be spent with Deana as we will both travel to Spain to walk a long distance on a spiritual pilgrimage, a portion of the Camino de Santiago. After returning from this trip, I will travel alone to Israel to take an extended course of biblical study, staying mostly in Jerusalem. Finally, I will spend an extended time at a convent in Maine for a quiet retreat. Together this will provide quality time for worship, reflection, travel, adventure, rest, prayer, reading, journaling, and art.

Q. Who will be in charge at Trinity while I am away?

A. Father Andy will be here all summer to lead worship and provide pastoral care. Father Andy will also take a brief vacation during this time and a supply priest will be at Trinity when he is away. In addition, our Senior Warden, Bill Perkins will be here. He and Father Andy will make all important decisions together, along with the help and support of other vestry members. The other capable Trinity Church staff members and ministry leaders will continue to provide for the needs of our congregation.

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Building a Spirit-empowered community that serves and celebrates Christ.

Q. Will I be available during sabbatical to take phone calls or answer my text messages or emails?

A. No. The purpose of a sabbatical is to take a complete break from work. You will be in my thoughts and prayers each day, but I will not respond to emails or calls or texts from you while on sabbatical. I will not be available to assist with any funerals, weddings or other pastoral needs during my sabbatical. Father Andy will be here for you.

Q. How will our parish benefit from my sabbatical?

A. The plan is that after my sabbatical I will return as your rector, refreshed and renewed after an amazing extended time of travel, spiritual reflection and renewal. I believe that you will benefit from my experiences and my time away. It is my hope that you will continue to pray for me while I am away, care for one another more intentionally, and grow deeper in your relationship with Jesus Christ. I ask that you be supportive to Father Andy, be as active as you can at church over the summer, participate in worship, and maintain your commitments to the church.

I am very grateful to you all and Trinity Church Vestry for this opportunity and I look forward to all that it will provide for me, my family and our parish. There will be many stories for us to share when I return in September. You remain always in my heart, thoughts and prayers.

In Christ,



Father Tim

First Sunday Funday Returns May 7th!



Calling all Trinity Kids in grades K-5: stick around after the 10:30 service on Sunday, May 7th for another First Sunday Funday! We will have lunch together, spend some time making a treat in the kitchen, and talk about Pentecost and the Holy Spirit. Older youth are invited to come and lend a helping hand during First Sunday Funday. Parents are also welcome to join us on the 7th and on future First Sunday Funday, or else feel free to take a lunch break or a quiet moment downtown, and return for **pick-up between 1:15 and 1:30 p.m.**

"Let my prayer come before thee; incline thine ear unto my cry;"
Psalm 88:2

In Our Prayers:

Parishioners

Sammy Caves
Jack Collins
Peggy Collins
Joyce Curry
Philip Day
Sydney Flournoy
Ken Followill
Robert Goddard
Becky Goldsmith
Mary Johnson
Harriet Lippmann
Robert Marcus
Karyn Marra
Bob Miller
Jo Myers
Bill Perdue
Jacquie Rawls
Bill & Nell Scrantom
Fleur Stearns
George Trussell, Jr.
George Wade
Johnny Walden
Libby Wells
Judy Wilkinson
Marg Williams
Cheryl Woods

Friends

Scott Badcock
Nan Boyett
Jim Buntin
Lorraine Callendar
Carol Charest
Shirley Craddock
Anthony & Brittany Estes
Jimmy Farr
Chuck Fischer
Joe Higdon
Milton Jones
Whitney Kiger
Kim Kimbrough
Devon Levy
Coles McKagen
Rick McKnight
The Ortiz Family
April Parsons
Sue Phillips
Larry Ray
Paul Rickard
Martha Robert
Hadley Scott
Susy Sironi
Bob Upchurch

If you know of a parishioner who is in the hospital, has had a child, or is facing some crisis, please let the Parish Office know so our Parish family can respond.

Evening Prayer

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.



Trinity's Evening Prayer service will continue to be held on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 throughout the summer. The service— which lasts approximately thirty minutes— is a chance to lift up your own prayers, along with those of the ancient church, and find rest and renewal in the midst of the busy workweek. All are Welcome!

*Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night;
you established the moon and the sun.
You fixed all the boundaries of the earth;
you made both summer and winter. (Ps 74:15,16)*

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Easter Day is always so special for all of us, but I will remember this Easter Day for the rest of my life.

Never have I been so surprised by an avalanche of very kind and humbling words in a grand proclamation, and never have I been doubly surprised by a portrait by my friend. Dr. Garry Pound! I will treasure both of them forever.

In my first year at Trinity, my Uncle Jimmy Thompson from Texas drove to Columbus to see my new place of employment for himself. Being an Organist/Choirmaster himself (as well as a businessman and a foreman of a working ranch), he withheld his approval of Trinity Church until he could access the place fully. After standing in all four corners of the Nave and then coming to the organ bench, he simply said, "You have driven your ducks to a good pond!" No truer words were ever spoken.

My greatest pleasure for these 40 years has been the opportunity to offer music up in tribute to God Almighty.

Blessings on everyone in this grand parish for bestowing upon me your approval and, more importantly your love and concern for low these many years.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Joseph Golden

Ascension Day 2023

'I am with you always, to the end of the age'



At 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 18th, Trinity will observe Ascension Day by walking the Stations of the Resurrection. This short service is similar to the Stations of the Cross we walked on Good Friday. During the Stations of the Resurrection, we will remember fourteen major happenings reported in the New Testament, stretching from the Earthquake that shook the world after Jesus' crucifixion, all the way to the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

As the 40th day after Easter Sunday, Ascension Day always falls on a Thursday, which means it is sometimes overlooked. Yet it is one of the seven Principal Feasts of the church year, and Anglicans have long celebrated the Ascension, not as Christ's departure from this world, but as his joining of heaven and earth in a new creation.

Gather at Trinity at 6 p.m. on May 18th to walk the Stations of the Resurrection. After walking the Stations, we will make our way over to Banks Food Hall to share a bite and relax together along the river.



Thank you, Acolytes!

As the school year comes to a close, Trinity honors our amazing Acolytes. If you see an acolyte this month, please give them a big **THANK YOU** for all they do to enliven worship and carry the church's liturgical tradition forward. Special thanks go to Charlotte Young as she graduates from Columbus High School this month, after many years of outstanding service as an Acolyte at Trinity!

Trinity's 2023 Acolytes

Barrett Ecklund & Ford Rowell
Silas & Ephraim Harkey
Emerson, Grayson, and Frances Morales
Leighton Russell
Benson Smith
Platt and Katie Anne Solomons
Charlotte, Traeger & Mary Frances Young

If you (or your child) wants to begin serving as an acolyte, please reach out to Father Andy (blakemore.trinity@gmail.com)!

MAY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER



Join us on Wednesday, May 3, to celebrate Reggie's birthday! We will be grilling hot dogs & hamburgers and will have birthday cake for dessert.

We'll see you there!

6:00 PM • MAY 3 • PARISH HALL



JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY POTLUCK
FOLLOWING 10:30 WORSHIP
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