



The Messenger

TRINITY Episcopal Church, Columbus, Georgia

The Rev. Timothy Graham, Rector

The Rev. Kyle Scillings, Associate Rector

Joseph Golden, Organist & Choirmaster

Dr. Aesook Moon, Associate Organist & Choirmaster

February 2020

From the Rector

The Rev. Timothy H. Graham



Dear friends,

Every church wants to have a thriving Children's Christian Education program. We have one at Trinity Church! It is possible that you can be here for worship or other activities and not notice the presence of children, but they are here and they are fully engaged. I promise you that we are offering quality programs that engage them in learning the fundamentals of the Christian faith, biblical truths, and we are teaching them to have a rich and active prayer life. And also, they are experiencing church as fun! And because they see church as a fun place to be, I believe that they will stay involved in church as they grow up and become adolescents and adults. Deana (Mama D.) is doing some amazing work with our kids. If you have not been reading her newsletter articles, you should! Kyle and Lauren are also engaged and active with our children's ministry. We are always in need of teenagers and adults to help with our children's ministry. Recently we changed the format of our children's program to meet the needs of our young families. Now they have an extended time in children's chapel and once a month (the first Sunday of each month) they are here for an extended period of time for lunch and afternoon that gives them a wealth of formation time. This format change was a creative experiment for us, and I believe that it is working well. Join me in giving thanks for happy children who are following Jesus in joyful ways here. Please get to know our children here. They need to know our adults too, and you'll be inspired by their joy and faith. Please pray for our Children's program and for our children.

May the Lord bless and keep you in this new year.

Father Tim



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

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

We pray God's protection for those serving in battle.

In Our Prayers:

Parishioners

Margaret Barber
Jean Berry
Kathleen Bishop
Nancy Bloebaum
Peggy Collins
Bill Harper
Lloyd Hudson
Margaret Lewis
Bob Miller
Lucius Morton
Tracy Mourer
Ginger Ollman
Ann Sturkie
George Trussell, Sr.
George Trussell, Jr.
George Wade
Trudy Wade
Judy Wilkinson
Alma Winn

Friends

Margaret Brown
Bob Bugh
Jim Buntin
Gardiner Church
Sherri Culp
Devon Levy
Cammy Marchetti
Michael Owen
Paul Rickard
George Rivers
Bill Scott

If you know of a parishioner who is in the hospital, has had a child, or is facing some crisis, please let the Parish

Kyle Stillings

When Jerusalem Greer, staff officer for evangelism in The Episcopal Church, came and spoke at Trinity recently she reminded us that, "they are called spiritual practices, not spiritual perfections." With Lent just around the corner many of us will be thinking this month about what new habits or disciplines to take up in order to help us "come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13). During our adult formation hour throughout Lent Sara Robinson Chambless will be leading a series of conversations exploring various modes of contemplative prayer. This is a fantastic way to learn about new practices that we can incorporate into our current prayer lives in order to deepen our relationship with God. Or perhaps none of these are new to you, but you would appreciate a facilitator and companion on the journey as you revisit old habits and seek a spiritual refresher.

Whether or not you are interested in contemplative prayer the season of Lent is a good time to ask ourselves, Who am I, and who do I want to be when I wake up Easter morning to be greeted by my risen Lord? I encourage you to sit with this question for some time before moving onto the question, How do I get from point A to point B? We know that diagnosing the current situation is an important first step, but we too often skip past it in our spiritual development. None of us would ask a doctor for a prescription before they had a diagnosis because the wrong medicine

wouldn't help us, and could even do us serious harm. Even accurate directions won't help you reach your destination if you don't know where you are starting on the map. Or as Jesus tells us, "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it. Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him." (Luke 14:28-29).

So as you take up new habits or set aside old ones this Lent I entreat you to pay attention to how that new change is helping you grow in spiritual maturity. Examine where you are on your journey, pray about where you want to be, and then observe how (or whether) your Lenten discipline is a helpful practice to keep with you after Easter.

In Peace,
Kyle+

Meet the Parishioners– Karl Welsher & Jim Petty



Karl is a cradle Episcopalian and Jim has been a member for near 25 years. They have been active as Chalice ministers, Jim has been an Usher and Karl has been a Verger and worked with Acolytes. They both hold a strong affinity with the Holy Innocents of our day, both in prayer and action.

While they were married at All Saints in Midtown Atlanta in 2013, this March marks their 25th anniversary of being a couple. They have 3 children, 8 grandkids (6 boys and 2 girls) and one great grandson!

Jim is a retired college administrator and Karl worked in Customer Service until retirement. They both enjoy reading and gardening and Karl is an avid bicyclist. They bought a home in the Cascade Hills area of Columbus this past fall to be closer to Karl's avocational work with Koinina Farm and the Chattahoochee Valley Fuller Center for Housing. They share their home with Thai Petty-Jones, a lavender point Siamese.

When asked why they chose to worship at Trinity, Karl and Jim both cited the architectural beauty of the church, as well as the welcoming nature of the congregation. They also enjoy Trinity's weekly broadcast of the worship service, which you can find and share on Facebook!

Youth Ski Trip Recap



Over MLK weekend we had an awesome group of 15 youth and four chaperones make the trip to North Carolina to spend two days at Wolf Ridge Ski Resort. Accompanied by two, 15 passenger vans and *lots* of luggage we arrived at our cabin around 1am! After assigning rooms and unloading the vans we all settled in and agreed that we'd be ready to hit the slopes by 8:45am the next morning!
We were a determined and energetic bunch!

Most of us were skiing newbies. All but two of us spent the first hour with a ski instructor learning basic tips and tricks for a successful weekend. After we finished our lesson we were on our own! I was so impressed! The determination and perseverance was basically radiating off our kids... and we faced some obstacles both days! On Saturday, the afternoon rain made it tough to ski through. The ride up the ski lift seemed like an eternity because there was nothing to do to prevent getting soaked the whole way up. Wet and cold wasn't a great combo. On Sunday the sun was out, thank goodness, but it was even colder! The wind was no joke! Because it was cold enough, the resort was able to blow snow, and while it was beautiful, I think we all would have preferred the rain. Gusts of wind mixed with blasts of snow felt like thousands of micro needles "gracing" our faces. And no, it was nothing like relaxing acupuncture session. It stung and was so painful! But y'all! We adapted and overcame. We had a blast and are so thrilled to let you know that we will be representing Trinity Episcopal Church in the 2022 Winter Olympics. Our kids are amazing! I could go on and on. If you'd like me to share a "feel good" story from our trip, let me know! I've got a few!

We were blessed to be a small part of a wonderful ministry during our trip! We stayed at a cabin called the Mountain View Lodge. It Was. Beautiful!! This cabin is part of an organization called the Black Mountain home for Children, Youth and Families. Per their website, "Begun by Presbyterian minister Robert Perry Smith in 1904 as Mountain Orphanage, the Home began its ministry taking in Appalachian children whose parents had died or disappeared. Today, the ministry serves youth from birth through college graduation through family foster care, residential care, transitional living, and independent living." This place and their mission is incredible. I highly encourage that you visit their website to learn more about them. Sign up for their newsletters, too! (blackmountainhome.org) The cabin we stayed in is a way for them to generate income to help support their organization. Funding has been cut drastically so every bit helps. Although we spent most of our time off campus, knowing that we helped by our monetary donation is a great thing! We hope to be able to partner with them in the future!

In March, we'll be taking a quick trip to Atlanta to kick off Spring Break. I hope YOU can join us! This will be a formation trip centered on a Dismantling Racism training provided by the Diocese. The purpose of this training is to "increase racial understanding, healing and reconciliation." We will visit the Civil Rights Museum and a few other ATL attractions to round out our trip. Put March 27-30 on your calendars and let me know if this is something you're interested in!

February Dates

- 2/2 - FIRST SUNDAY FUN | 12-2PM
- 2/9 - YOUTH | 5-7PM
- 2/16 - PARISH POTLUCK | 12PM
- 2/23 - YOUTH | 5-7PM



Music Notes

Choir CDs: We have sold over half of our new choir CD "Great Hymns of the Faith, Vol. 1." Response from those who purchased CDs has been highly complimentary. We still have over 50 CDs that were reserved earlier, but that have not been picked up yet. PLEASE PICK UP YOUR CDs, both those that were reserved and new purchases either in the Church Office during regular office hours or on Sundays, after the 8:00 and 10:30 services.

All CD sales go directly into the Choir Scholarship Fund, on which our student musicians depend for a portion of their school expenses and for which they are all most grateful.

Joseph Golden, Organist/Choirmaster
Dr. Aesook Moon, Associate Organist/Choirmaster



Do you remember when your Mom or Dad used to ask you how your school day was, right when you got in the car? Or they might've asked, "What did you do at school today?" I know without a doubt your answer was, "nuthin" because that is the universal answer to that question!

Seems like about 25 or so years ago someone got smart and taught us to ask open-ended questions - to trick our children out of being able to answer with a yes or a no or a nuthin. I think it's working! I believe we have figured out a way to engage more with our children about what they do all day when they are away from us.



This got me thinking about how you and your children communicate about what they do at church. I thought it might be beneficial for you and your child (and also add to the success of our children's programs) if you had some go-to questions for after Children's Church or First Sunday Fun Days or First Wednesday nights. I hope so!

Try a few of these, and (PLEASE) do not tell me if your child says we did "nuthin."

- Who did you enjoy this morning at church? Can you tell me any new folks you met?
- Did you all play a game or make something today?
- Did Mama D read a Bible story or did you all talk about something special?
- Is there anything you'd like to remember during the week?
- Did anything touch your heart this morning?
- Did you ask the TKs to pray for something or someone in particular?
- What do you remember from the prayers you all prayed?
- Would you like our family to pray for something or someone special? Will you remind us?
- Besides the treat, what was your favorite part of church today?
- What was the silliest thing that happened?
- What's your favorite thing to do at church?
- Did you meet any new adult friends? Do you remember their names?
- Did you talk to Father Tim or Father Kyle at church? What do you think it would be like to do what they do?
- Do you ever wonder about what all of the different people do in the church service?
- What do you think you'd like to do in church when you get older?
- Are you excited to be an acolyte when you get old enough?



I'd love to hear how it goes - these family conversations - you know I love all of this CONNECTIONS stuff! Perhaps after you ask a question or two about your child's experience, you could tell them a bit about yours.

I'm so thankful for these precious little people and that they are growing up at Trinity.

Love,
Mama D.

