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THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Trinitarian

July-August 2020

A REFLECTION FROM YOUR INTERIM PRIEST

Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighborhood. Tell them that the kingdom is here. Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables. Kick out the demons. [Matthew 10:6-9; Eugene Peterson translation, *The Message*]

Like many of you, I have struggled to understand the purpose of our church community when we do not gather for worship, and most particularly when we do not share in Holy Communion. As many of you may know, I was raised a Roman Catholic at a time when women were at the altar only when we dusted the pews and polished the silver vessels. When I was a young girl, I would make our playroom table into an altar: laying out one of my father's white handkerchiefs on which I would place a plate and a mug covered with cardboard. Without bread or wine, I would read the prayers of consecration from my Latin/English prayer book, lifting and kneeling and bowing in imitation of the priest whom I watched every morning of the week at Mass. As a young adult, I was away from the church for a long time, and it would not have occurred to me to return to a church without Holy Communion as the sacramental act that brought us together.

But here we are, "fasting" from Holy Communion until it is once again safe to touch one another and to hand food to each other. Like many of you, I have been challenged to admit how easily I had forgotten the fundamental purpose of being disciples – as this passage from Matthew reminds us. Jesus' commission to his disciples does not stipulate a way to worship, a place to gather, or a time to pray; nor does it urge us to satisfy our own hunger. Jesus says: *Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables. Kick out the demons. The kingdom of God is near.* Without sharing in Holy Communion, we will learn to see other signs of God's presence, and our own hunger will become a lens through which to see more clearly the path to peace so easily obscured by fear, mistrust, and loneliness.

I think that Evelyn Underhill has put it best:

*We look to the Church to give us an experience of God, mystery, holiness and prayer.
God is the interesting thing about religion, and people are hungry for God.*

Our liturgies are but one way to open the way to the Mystery that is God.

"Kicking out the demons" of greed, fear, and self-interest is another.

"Touching the untouchables" is another.

Taking care of the gifts of relationship that we have received is another –making a phone call, sending a note, writing an email, contributing to the meals program, taking part in the parish conversations about our shared life and mission. These actions are as holy as the sacramental meal we long for, and they make the same statement: *The kingdom of God is near.*

Judith+

DURING THIS TIME – July/August 2029

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

On June 22nd, your Vestry met to consider plans for re-opening the church building and in-person worship for the months of July and August. Their two considerations were the well-being of the congregation and faithfulness to your Mission Statement: *Sharing the Grace of God, the Light of Christ, and the Power of the Holy Spirit through worship, ministry, and fellowship.*

1. We will continue with virtual worship for the summer and we will incorporate music beginning on July 12th. A Vestry subcommittee will plan a special in-person service (outdoors) to be held in August, pending public health concerns. Beginning on July 15th (pending peer review by the Dean and the Bishop), the church will be open for private prayer on a weekday morning, a weekday evening, and on Sunday morning. We will also arrange for someone to help anyone who is having trouble accessing online worship.
2. Despite our commitment to the wider community, the Vestry felt more research into what other churches are doing, what other community resources are available for meetings, and what our own liability would be before opening our building to community groups. A Vestry subcommittee will do the necessary research and present a proposal to the Vestry on July 13th. At that meeting, the Vestry will also approve a new Building Use Agreement.
3. The Vestry recognizes the importance of providing opportunities for in-person, non-virtual ways to share discussions about preparations for the search. They agreed to wait until after the virtual meetings, phone conversations, and mail-in responses to the topics for discussion that were scheduled in June. After that, they will decide whether in-person small-group meetings are both necessary and safe. They agreed that the people who might seek the small-group meetings are the very people who would be most vulnerable in a room with other people.
4. There was a strong consensus that opening the office should be determined by the amount of time needed for Magee to do the work required for current church operations. They agreed that this decision should be made by Mother Judith in consultation with the Wardens. Through July, Magee will be in the office on Mondays and Thursdays, 10 am – 3 pm, and the office will not be open to the public.

We will continue to have Morning Prayer via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9 and on Wednesday mornings at 10.

We will post a weekly Sunday School activity for families by Sunday mornings. Because Stage 2 does not allow for in-person Sunday School, we will not host a VBS in August as originally planned.

ZOOM Chats take place on every other Wednesday evening at 8pm (**7/8 & 22, 8/5 & 19**) and every other Monday morning at 7 am (**7/13 & 27, 8/10**). These chats are hosted by Sarah Prevelige and facilitated with Cindi Scrimgeour and Laurel Pirelli. The ZOOM code can be found in our weekly parish email.

ZOOM Bingo and Family Game Night will resume in September.

ZOOM Fridays at Noon: Bible Study: July 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31: The Gospel of Matthew

Every Friday join Mother Judith and other friends from Trinity for lunch and conversation about Scripture, faith, and our spiritual lives. We will discuss the Gospel of Matthew (the gospel we are reading most often on Sundays). We will also take some time for discussion and instruction, and for general conversation about living our faith.

Pastoral Care: Mary Johnson chairs a Pastoral Care Team of volunteers who stay in touch with members of the congregation by telephone or notes. If you would like to join this team or share a prayer request, please contact Mary at mary.johnson8@comcast.net

Community Dinners: The Vestry will decide in August whether to open the kitchen and Murray Hall for cooking and distribution of meals in September or October. For the summer, Trinity is collaborating with other churches and community organizations to provide take-out meals from local restaurants to front-line workers at the hospital, the Milford Post Office, local grocery stores, and Lowes. We are also planning support for the staff at local nursing homes. Trinity is hosting "Grab-n-Go" meals prepared by Oliva's on the last Thursday of each month (July 30th & August 27th). This is designed to support both our local restaurants and our front-line workers. Donations may be made to Trinity with "community dinners" on the memo line.



ROMEOs LUNCHEONS_R

ROMEOs will meet with Zoom at 12:30 on July 10th and August 7th. The access link will be sent by email. Please contact Dave Clinkman if you have any questions or concerns. JULIETs luncheons will resume when we are able to meet indoors at a restaurant . Please contact Pat Keppler for further information.

A NOTE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Despite the changes caused by coronavirus that have had such an impact on our lives, Trinity is still vital and functioning, but in a different way. We cannot meet in our building, but we can meet on Zoom. We cannot share Holy Communion, but we can share Morning Prayer. We cannot touch one another, but we can see and hear one another through modern technology. We cannot share church events physically, but we can share them virtually. We cannot hold community dinners, but we can distribute premade and packaged meals. These changes may last quite a while and we may never completely return to life as we knew it before. While that may be unsettling, it provides us with opportunities for growth and change.

We are ready to move forward in our search for a new rector. Beginning the week of June 21, we held three meetings on Zoom. Those meetings were for all parishioners to join and share

their thoughts and ideas for how they envision the future of Trinity in the areas of worship/liturgy, formation, community partnerships, and parish life. We are planning to hold several more Zoom meetings, and we also hope to hold one or two small in-person meetings in July for those who don't have electronic access. These will occur after a peer review by the Dean and the Bishop allows opening of the building. I encourage you to participate. Your input is vital to the success of our search.

In mid-July, we'll put the Holy Cow survey online for 4 weeks. Parishioners will be able to access it from home. We'll also make provisions for those who don't have computer access. This will be another opportunity for everyone to share what they see as the future of Trinity.

Here is our current timeline:

- **Monday July 13** - Vestry appointment of Profile and Search Committees.
- **Sunday, July 19** - Commissioning of the Committees during Morning Prayer.
- **July 20-August 17** - Holy Cow Survey
- **Monday August 10** - Vestry, Profile Committee and Search Committees meet with Canon Simpson to preview the search process and do a Mutual Ministry Review.
- **Saturday September 12th** - Vestry, Profile Committee and Search Committee meet with Canon Simpson to review the Holy Cow Survey and plan the Profile.

Getting ready to call a new rector is not about waiting for something to happen or for the Search and Profile Committees to make an announcement. It's about all of us taking part in the preparation by sharing our ideas about what God is calling us to do by participating in meetings and completing the Holy Cow survey. Because we will be calling a new rector to lead us where we want to go, we need to identify that destination. We can only do that if we pray, contemplate, and consider how we envision the future of Trinity, and then make that information known to the Profile and Search Committees.

We also need to prepare in more concrete ways. We need to clean out our storage areas: choir room, Lane Chapel, Mary Moore Room, all closets, and the storage area in Murray Hall. We need to compile photos for the Profile Committee. We need to be intentional about staying in touch with one another through telephone, text, email, virtual meeting, notes, and worship.

I encourage you to take part in Zoom events and meetings, to stay in touch with one another, and to help with preparations that need to be made for calling a new rector. Be safe and well.

Ginny Starkis
Senior Warden


THANK YOU TO...

The many people who have been working hard finding new ways to keep us functioning: Mother Judith, the Vestry, Susan Edmondson, Steve Ketcham, Ann Marie Lockwood, Laurel

Pirelli, Sarah Prevelige, Cindi Scrimgeour, Wayne Stochaj, Kim Stochaj, Beth StochajPeach Warren, and Glen and Patricia Peterson and the Community Meals team.

And thanks to those who have continued their work to keep our finances up-to-date: Cheryl Eidinger-Taylor, Karen Carig-O'Neill, and Charlie Johnson.

And thanks to all of you for your ongoing financial support and your attendance at our Zoom gatherings.

 JUNE MEETING SUMMARY	
<p>June 8th This meeting was held remotely by Zoom.</p>	
<p>2020 Budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of logistical constraints, our 2020 Budget was approved by email vote just before the Annual Meeting. This decision was formally documented at this Vestry meeting.
<p>Finances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several repairs and replacements at the rectory were approved: a roof leak near the chimney, replacing an exterior flood light, and replacing the first-floor bathroom sink faucet. • A new dishwasher has been installed. • Compensation for Rachel Carpenter to lead a virtual Vacation Bible School was approved.
<p>Senior Warden's Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GFS scholarships awarded to Brendon Kee, Rory Crisfield, and Grace Prevelige were approved. • The detailed timeline for the rector search will be in the newsletter and sent out by email blast. • Rail Trail Flatbread Restaurant is coming to downtown Milford. As abutters we were notified of the public hearing to express any concerns. Everyone was excited about their arrival
<p>Reverend Judith's Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cleaning Update</i> <p>The vestry reviewed quotes for cleaning the parish hall and limited areas of the church. We cannot make decisions about opening and cleaning until we see the Diocesan guidelines. Then we will need to develop a plan that must be approved by the Dean</p>

	<p>and the Diocese before we can open. The vestry will meet again once the packet has been received and we have had time to review it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mutual Ministry Review</i> <p>The mutual ministry review with Canon Simpson will be held in August.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ecumenical Prayer Gathering for Justice</i> <p>We had hoped to be a presence for social justice as a community on June 19th, but under Diocesan guidelines we cannot gather inside or outside until further notice. Mother Judith will work with other area clergy to explore ecumenical options for worship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Celebrating our Graduates</i> <p>We are celebrating our graduates from eighth grade, high school, and college. A banner will be hung in front of the parish hall with their names and pictures. Balloon bouquets will be delivered on Sunday. Mother Judith will present the graduates with beautiful wooden crosses that fit comfortably into one's hand. A sending-off with additional gifts will take place in August.</p>
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NewsLetter
DEADLINE

Just a reminder that the deadline for submissions for the September edition of *The Trinitarian* is August 15th. Please honor this deadline. Content that is submitted late may not make it into the newsletter. All articles should be sent to: news@trinitychurchmilford.org.



From the Editor

What has changed for you during the pandemic? Have you gained a greater appreciation for the simple things? I certainly have. This lockdown has been tough on my family, and we suffered a death in our immediate family from cancer. There is so much I wanted to say to my dear mother-in-law before she passed, but we weren't allowed to visit, and she was too weak to talk on the phone or by email. The passing of life has become more visceral and despite the sameness of my existence, I thank God every day for the gift of life. Peace to all of you.

Elizabeth Klisiewicz, Editor
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Worship Schedule	Wednesday, 9am Saturday, 5pm Sunday, 8am and 10am

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