



From our Priest-in-Charge

Christ is Risen! Alleluia.

I had two revelations this Lent and Easter that blew me away:

Christ did not come to die for us. He came to teach us how to live!

*Easter is a celebration of Christ's triumph over death **and** an invitation to us to rise with him, not in the future but now today, every day!.*

"The Old Testament stories also tell us something about the tombs in our lives, our own places of bondage and captivity that keep us from living life to the fullest. As Christ rose from the dead, we too are offered the hope and possibility to escape that which keeps us captive."

I would like to address several things this month:

*Several members have remarked that we seem to keep members who have lost loved ones on our prayer list for an extended period. There **is** a change going on in terms of our practice here at Trinity. My experience with my own grief when my parents died and my experience as a chaplain led me to notice that Americans are not comfortable with grief. Friends and acquaintances want us to be over it, to get on with life. We make them uncomfortable. I do not think that is reality, loss does not evaporate. The grief process takes a long time. In many ways our loved ones never leave us. I like the Jewish practice of eleven months of grieving and then the family and loved ones go to the cemetery for the installation of the headstone and to say Kadish. As a compromise, if a member of your family or a loved one dies, our policy now is to keep you on our prayer list for 6 months. If you request either a longer or shorter time period, we will honor that request. But we want to acknowledge and support you especially in this time when your loss is so fresh.*

Along the same lines: if you ask us to pray for someone who is in trouble or ill, we normally keep that person on the list for 4 weeks. Again, you can lengthen or shorten that time, just let Jan know.

This question led me to the following suggestion:

I would like us to start a box to put : I heard that....., or I wonder why.....or I wish that..... questions.

This might be a healthy way to start discussions. I'll have forms available this Sunday on the table we usually use for signup sheets and we will see what turns up.

We baptized 6 children at the Easter Vigil. They were excited, focused and intent. I was excited and honored by how seriously 5 of them took their Baptism. I say 5 because 10 month old Zackary was mostly interested in playing in the water in the Baptismal Font. As you know, I have been talking a lot about our responsibility and vows to model the Christian life for these children. The children paid serious attention to what they were promising.

Continued on page 2

Continued from our Priest-in-Charge

Continued from page 1

I want now to talk about parents and godparents. Choosing Godparents is at least as serious a choice as choosing guardians for your children in a will for many of the same reasons. (As an aside, I hope that all parents with children DO have a will in which they have provided for the care, love and protection of their children in case of the parents death.) I emphasized with parents and grandparents that Baptism is not magic. It is the beginning of our life in Christ. It is the responsibility of parents and godparents to model Christ's teachings AND to make sure the children attend church and keep studying and understanding Christ's teachings and how it applies to their lives. Godparents therefore must be Christians, at least one should be an Episcopalian so they know our approach to Scripture, ethics, social action, theology etc. They must be active church members themselves or we are exemplifying "Do what I say, not what I do". I will work on a pamphlet on our Baptism process which includes participation of parents, Godparents, children when they are of age and suggestions to explore when choosing Godparents.

Last but not least: every year each Episcopal parish produces a parochial report to send to the Bishop. It talks about how many people are attending services, increases and decreases in membership, pledges, number of services etc. It also asks for members in good standing. A member in good standing is someone who is "baptized, has received communion at least 3 times that year, are faithful in corporate worship unless for good cause prevented and are faithful in working, praying and giving for the spread of the kingdom of God". Members in good standing are listed in our canonical records because they either have been baptized or confirmed here, or have transferred their membership here. Only they are able to vote at the annual meeting, be a vestry member and serve the chalice during worship. Important to note is that the number of votes we are entitled to at the annual diocesan convention is determined by how many members in good standing we report. This year our number has dipped below 100 and we therefore are entitled to one voting delegate rather than two. Jan and I are working on who is on our list because we think more of our members might be eligible for inclusion if we had a copy of their baptismal certificate or a transfer form. If you fall in this category, we will be in talking with you.

Have a wonderful Easter Season and enjoy the resurrection of the earth.

Susan+

Words from the Senior Warden

It was just a few weeks ago that we ended the Lenten season. The week between Palm Sunday and Easter was a very busy time around Trinity. Holy week services, moving the baptismal font, the baptisms, Easter Sunday services... what a tremendous effort by so many people to make everything happen. It was a wonderful experience. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who participated, volunteered their time and were on hand to help. These efforts once again underscore what makes Trinity so special...the people!

In the 2017 budget, the Vestry anticipated several large maintenance/repair projects. It is important for us to continue to manage the upkeep of our church property. Neglect or overly long delays can be harmful and eventually turns into an emergency. For several years, we have postponed projects due to financial constraints.

Planned for this spring is some work on the driveway. We are collecting estimates for adding gravel to the driveways (this will include "retrieving" the gravel pushed to the sides by snow plowing). Also, we plan to put gutters on the rectory. At one time there were gutters there, but over the years they fell into disrepair and were taken down. The gutters will have heat tape so that during the winter we can avoid ice dams from forming. (We are getting too old to climb high ladders!) On the backside of the rectory along the outside wall along the deck, we have seen some damage to the siding. This was caused by water/snow melt coming off the second story roof, splashing onto the deck and onto the siding. Once the gutters are installed, we plan to repair and repaint the siding along the deck.

These are "big" projects for our "little" budget, but important none-the-less. While there are many projects we could be doing, it is important to remember we can't afford to do everything. So, we are prioritizing repair and maintenance work. The projects were anticipated within our 2017 Annual budget and are not "emergency repairs" but necessary upkeep!

This spring, with the help of a volunteer from another Episcopal Church, we expect to catch up on our financial audits. We have several years of audits to catch up on! In that regard, I continue to seek a volunteer to take over as Treasurer. While I am happy to keep doing the function, it is not fiscally appropriate for the same person to be Senior Warden and Treasurer. I am sure that this will be a finding in the upcoming Audit and would like to have a transition plan in place. Do you have even a little experience with excel spreadsheets, Income Statements, Balance sheets and can provide a little bit of time to help with this function? It's not hard, it is interesting and it is very important. Please help, if you can!

Peter Gonze

Previews of Coming Attractions

Because this has been a difficult month and because I want to be sure that my articles are carefully fact-checked in this day and age of "alternate facts", I've had to take a short cut to meet this month's newsletter deadline, as you will see. I apologize for this, but I know you all share my concern for presenting "true truths", so I'd rather wait for next month, get an earlier start and get it right.

When Linda and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with a gathering of friends at Trinity, I courted her again by singing the old folk song, "Kisses Sweeter Than Wine." Afterwards, my friend Charlie Wilson said, "Well, that was nice, but keep your day job." People in the arts know all about keeping day jobs. As an added benefit, two of mine years ago will now provide starting points for my next two essays on religion and public affairs. This is just a preview.

I spent the proverbial "long hot summer" of 1963 renting trailers to movers and campers. As I lay on my back on my creeper drilling holes in car frames to attach trailer hitches, with dry mud and steel shavings falling in my face, there was always a radio playing in the background. In 1963 that usually meant a raspy new voice, so different from the crooners and rock stars we were used to, as Bob Dylan asked, "How many roads must a man walk down before you can call him a man?...How many deaths will it take 'til he knows that too many people have died?"

That second question still lingers in the air years later, not only in the world of international conflict, but in the heart-rending epidemic of mass firearm murders that goes on and on in America. They are all terrible, but the one that especially made me know that too many people have died was the 2012 slaughter of 26 students and teachers at Sandy Hook elementary school in Connecticut. The pictures of those first graders looked so much like the ones that Linda taught (and I drew) for many years; the teachers could have been Linda and her colleagues.

In the days right after Sandy Hook, before organizations and columnists jumped in with their opinions, my weekly round found me talking with people across the political spectrum, including members of the National Rifle Association, and they all agreed that we need to do three things as a nation to end this epidemic: provide much better mental health care; exercise reasonable control over the types of weapons available and who can use them; and work to change America's culture of violence. Then the usual organizations and opinion makers began to have their say, each defending their own turf and nothing substantial was ever done. And too many more people have died. We will try to present a fuller analysis and hopes for the future in another newsletter essay.

Another day job was at night, so I could paint by daylight, in the admitting office of Flower Hospital in New York. That gave me a front row seat when Medicare went into effect on July 1, 1966. There had been a great deal of controversy over the laws establishing Medicare and Medicaid. Doctors didn't like the idea of "government interfering in medical decisions" and some healthy people objected to paying a tax to cover medical insurance for others. But that was before the new system went to work. As R.H. Macy says in "Miracle on 34th Street", "Gentlemen, you cannot argue with success."

The immediate effect at Flower was a sudden influx of older patients seeking treatment they needed but hadn't been able to afford. This was especially notable in our ophthalmology department, where surgeons used then-new technology to restore sight to many seniors and therefore a normal life to them and their caregivers. Patients also were treated at earlier stages of cancer, heart disease, arthritis and many other ailments, extending productive lives with simpler treatments than would have been needed when they put off going to the doctor too long because they were afraid of the cost.

Today, we are having another, similar, national debate about affordable care, and there are many legitimate practical concerns in that debate, just as in the one about gun violence. But, as I've said before, it's not brain surgery or rocket science and there are reasonable answers that should be satisfactory to reasonable people on both sides of current controversies. Stay tuned.

Peter Salmon

Birthdays & Anniversaries



May Birthdays

16 Jim Siglin
17 Leroy Reaves
21 Michael Goodwin
21 Nneka VanGronigen
22 Benjamin Gower
23 Justice Brian Cook



May Anniversaries

3 Wendell & Jutta Moser
16 Bob & Vickie O'Grady
19 Nelson & Chandanie
Baboolal

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

May Calendar of Events

May 1 - Book Study, 7:00p.m., Tom Sayer Residence
May 3 - Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. - Noon
May 8 - Trinity Crafters, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Library
May 9 - Worship Committee Meeting, 9:45 a.m.
May 16 - Vestry Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Library
May 20 - Popcorn & Movie Night, "Victor, Victoria"
5:00 p.m., Library
May 21 - Last Day of Sunday School
Red Cross, Run for the Red Marathon
May 22 - Trinity Crafters, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Library
May 26 - Newsletter Deadline for Information
June 2 - Newsletter Mailing

Reflections

Many years ago a Baptist minister asked me what I thought about the Easter message. Did Jesus really rise from the dead !!

Over the centuries many people have suggested various theories about Jesus resurrection at Easter; most if not all involve resuscitation in some way, or theft of the body. Roman crucifixion was extremely brutal and Roman soldiers very tough; in addition, a seal and guard was put on the tomb of Jesus. It is extremely unlikely to the point of being impossible that Jesus was resuscitated or his body stolen.

What was his resurrected body like? There are several stories in the New Testament describing the resurrected Jesus, the one that appeals to me is the story about Thomas - doubting Thomas; you can read about this in the Gospel of John, Ch 20. Jesus resurrected body was very different; He could appear and disappear in an instant in a locked room, yet He had a physical body all the same, because Thomas touched Jesus. He put his fingers into the places where the nails had held Jesus to the cross and felt the spear wound in His side, Jesus says to Thomas and to us, "be not faithless but believing".

It strikes me that Easter is about the "F"word; Faith - the "unseen". You cannot buy faith; you cannot measure it or sell it, weigh it or dissect it, but for thousands of years faith has sustained both Jews and Christians against seemingly impossible odds and difficulties. For the last two thousand years, faith has continued to uphold individual Christians through persecutions and trials - because Christ is alive. They have had the faith to see that miracles still happen. That death is not the end. That loving one's neighbor is a pretty sound idea. That we have the power and even the responsibility to forgive.

It certainly isn't easy; but it beats most of the alternatives.

M.J.G

Our Prayers have been requested for:

Alex Backora
Mary Banzhof
Randy Criste-Troutman
Victoria Forstein
Bill Gessner
Jutta & Wendell Moser
Jim Rawson
Fr. Charles Rice
Lois Rothrock
Jennifer Salmon
Ellie Schenck
Katie Scully
Heather

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*