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Who Do You Say Jesus Is?

About 15 parishioners participated in Trinity's Lenten retreat, "Who Do You Say That I Am?," held Saturday, April 12.

The theme of the retreat came from Matthew 16: 13-17 where Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" The disciples give a variety of answers – "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Then Jesus asks the disciples themselves, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answers succinctly: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus calls Peter blessed and says that his revelation has come not from flesh and blood but from God, "my Father who is in heaven."

In a short talk, Father Bob said that Peter's recognition of Jesus' identity was based on his faith. It was a faith, Father Bob said, that was so strong that it led Peter to the astounding realization that Jesus was the Son of God. It was through his faith that Peter, despite his occasional shortcomings, remained dedicated to serving Christ and ministering to others. Father Bob said that if we truly recognize Jesus and live our lives based on this realization, we can serve the church and our community like Peter served the early church 2,000 years ago.

Grace Kern then led a time of personal reflection. Participants had a short time to quietly reflect on four questions about how we see ourselves and how we think God views us. A discussion followed the quiet time. Several people talked about their need to understand themselves as individuals as well as their desire to discern how to fit within the community of the church. Everyone seemed to agree that God sees us and loves us, warts and all, and that



sometimes we are harder on ourselves than we must be.

A guided meditation based on “Who Do You Say That I Am?,” also led by Grace, followed the reflection period. Grace asked everyone to be still, with their eyes closed, and imagine being in a crowd with Jesus. At some point, Jesus calls you by your name and asks you who you think He is. In quiet reflection, each participant wrote down their response to Jesus’ question, a response to contemplate as they entered Holy Week. Father Bob ended the meditation with a reminder that God loves us unconditionally. We don’t have to earn God’s love but just be the person He calls us to be.

Following the retreat, a light lunch was served in the parish hall.

--Reported by Mary Ann Slater

Honor God's Blessings with Flowers

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, the prayers of God's people are likened to a pleasing aroma to God. Each Sunday, a fresh bouquet of flowers stands behind the altar lifting a lovely aroma to God and symbolizing the new life in Christ.

Weekly flowers are paid for by parishioners and can be given in memory or thanks for people or blessings in our lives.

The sign up for altar flowers is on the bulletin board downstairs. Dates are listed for the entire year. If you would like to dedicate flowers, please sign up for the date you want, ONE NAME PER WEEK PLEASE. If you want flowers for a specific date, please sign up now. We have an arrangement with Harris Teeter to provide flowers for the church. The arrangement costs \$30.00. If you sign up for flowers, please pay \$30.00 to Trinity with a note that the money is “for flowers”. Please remember to take the flowers home after the 10:30 am service.



Let Us Pray For You.

Prayer is an integral part of our daily life. Your contemplations, concerns, thanksgivings, and celebrations can be daily prayers.

We know and trust that God hears all prayers: those that are spoken and those that are kept close to the heart.

Email your prayer request to:
trinitypray4me@yahoo.com

Please note that this is a new email address.

The Daughters of the King will lift up your requests in prayer for 30 days unless otherwise specified. All requests are confidential.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Love Your Western NC Neighbors

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Helene, we saw an amazing outpouring of support for our neighbors in Western NC. I spoke with folks running Valle Crucis outside of Banner Elk, and while life is just now starting to get back to normal, there is still much work to do. Some communities are still without water, and many lost their winter wardrobes in the flooding.

You can help out by making donations to the Diocese of Western NC or by giving to Episcopal Relief and Development. When you give to these organizations, you can be confident the money is going to those in need.

Diocese of Western NC:

<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=148858&f=4>

Episcopal Relief and Development:

<https://support.episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-relief>



How to Check Your Online Giving

As we begin the new year and enter a fresh season of pledging, it's a good idea to check your online giving settings. Perhaps you raised your pledge, or you want to ensure that the correct amount is being donated. Here's how to do it:

1. Go to <https://gyve.io/give/trinityfuquay>
2. Click on "recurring gift" (or any option really)
3. Login to your Gyve account using the email and password from when you signed up.
4. In left hand menu bar, click "Scheduled"
5. Click "edit" to modify your monthly donation.
6. Click on "Accounts" to modify or remove credit card information or bank information.
7. Click on "Sign Out" when finished.

School Supplies Delivered to EFWM

On Wednesday, April 16, a group of Trinity members delivered a load of school supplies to the Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry. Throughout Lent, Trinity was collecting school supplies, gift cards, and money to help outfit the children of farmworkers for school. The Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry has been serving migrant workers since 1978. Thank you for your service to all parts of the church body.

For more information about EFWM, visit www.efwm.org



May Birthdays



May 1	Barbara Lawrence
May 3	Cynthia Thomas
May 3	Julie Yamamoto
May 8	Kevin McAlister
May 10	Catherine Rubin
May 11	Patricia Hennessy
May 26	Andrea Perry
May 29	Tessa Yamamoto

**If we missed your birthday or have the wrong date, please email
srwarden@trinityfuquay.org**

You Need the Altar Guild. The AG needs YOU!

Everyone enjoys the beauty of Trinity's services. Everything is ready and in its place as the organ begins to play. None of this happens magically.

The Altar Guild keeps the sanctuary in a state of readiness for worship.

The activities are not hard or time consuming. The reward is immeasurable, and the camaraderie can't be beat. There are many different ways to participate, and some can be done in the comfort of your home.

Experienced Altar Guild members are ready to mentor one and all.

Please consider joining this vital ministry for our church. Contact **Grace Kern** (teachichs1@gmail.com or **973-632-4716**) for more information or to volunteer. Can we count on YOU?

Sonnet Sequence

Youth Sunday

16th Street Baptist Church

Birmingham, Alabama

This morning's already good--summer's cooling, Addie chattering like a magpie--but today we are leading the congregation. A'int *that* a fine thing! All in white *like angels*, they'll be sighing when we appear at the pulpit and proclaim "Open your hymnals--" Addie, what's the page number again? Never mind, it'll be posted. I think. I hope. Hold still, Carole, or else this sash will never sit right! There. Now you do mine. Almost eleven. I'm ready. My, don't we look--what's that word the Reverend used in last Sunday's sermon? Oh, I got it: *ethereal*.

--by Rita Dove

American theologian Frederick Buechner argues that art places a frame around a moment. Just like putting a picture in a frame, the frame doesn't change the moment, but "it changes our way of perceiving the moment." Art asks us to pay attention, to stop what we are doing, look at this person or thing, and listen. Buechner reminds us that the greatest commandment is to love God and love our neighbor. Logically then, "if we are to love our neighbors...we must see our neighbors."

What then does Rita Dove frame in her sonnet "Youth Sunday"? The information about 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham and the names Addie and Carole lock in the fact that this poem is

about the church bombing in 1963. But Dove isn't commenting on the aftermath of the bombing or the events preceding the bombing. She is not framing the political turmoil of the Civil Rights Movement. Instead, she wants us to see these girls being girls. Buechner suggests that the frame "enable[s] us to see...the moment itself in all its ineffable ordinariness and particularity." Dove wants us to SEE Addie and Carole not as martyrs defined by the bomb but as girls, excited to have a role in the church service, worried about whether their sashes are correct, thinking about how they will appear to the congregation. They are counting down the moments to when they get to announce the hymn. Even remembering the big word that the pastor used in a sermon last week.

Why does Rita Dove want us to Stop Look and Listen at these girls nervously getting ready for the service? What impact do the italics on the words "like angels" and "ethereal" have on you as a reader?

Sharp-eyed readers of this column might notice that I called this poem a "sonnet," but the poem only has 13 lines. No matter how experimental, poets usually rigidly stick to 14 lines when writing a sonnet. The poem stopping at 13 is something that takes my breath away. Dove focuses our attention so closely on the girls and what they are doing in the moment before the service that we are right there in the church. And when the bomb goes off, the poem is cut short, just like the chattering glorious girls were cut short in that moment. Stop. Look. Love the individual persons caught up in larger "issues" of the world.

--meditation written by Todd Truffin

The Trinitarian needs YOU.

The newsletter is only as interesting as YOU make it.

Anyone can contribute content to *The Trinitarian*. Celebrate life events with your church family: anniversaries of important events in your life, new jobs, remembrances of God's work in your life, new opportunities, blessings, etc.

Don't worry if you think your writing skills aren't ready for primetime, the editor will be happy to massage the knots out of any tense prose.

Please email all news and articles to **Todd Truffin at tctruffin@gmail.com** (Pictures make the newsletter more interesting!) **The deadline for inclusion is the 20th of each month.**

Sunday Worship

Meeting in person at 8:30am and 10:30am every Sunday.

The 10:30am Service is LIVEstreamed on our **YouTube** channel **TECFV**.
<https://www.youtube.com/@tecfv-trinityepiscopalchur8313>

You can also view past services there whenever you would like.

