

THE TRINITARIAN

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Rector Search Update

Dear Trinity,

I just wanted to let you know that our discussions with our candidate rector continue, and are positive from both courts!

Please continue your prayers. There are many moving pieces in the process to calling a new rector, particularly when out of state, and we are working through some of those challenges so we can establish a basis upon which we are all on the same page in terms of expectation. Through this, we learn a greater deal about the candidate, and it provides us input during the discernment period we are both in and this particular time.

Happy thanksgiving to all. I hope we can give you another update in the coming weeks.

Martin Steel



Greening of the Church

Stay after Church on Sunday, December 19 to help festoon the sanctuary with greens and other festive decorations as Advent comes to a close and Christmas enters.



**Please join us to celebrate
Bill Jenkins as he turns
*100 years old!***

**WHEN: Thursday, December 16 from
2:00-3:30 pm**

**WHERE: Windsor Point Retirement
Center Auditorium, 1221 Broad Street**

****Please just come and share in
the festivities—absolutely no gifts!**

Help Us Welcome The Savior

Our Christmas Eve Service will be outdoors, with fire pits in a Bring-Your-Own Chair and Blankets event at 5pm.

The church is planning to widen the service to the larger south Wake and north Harnett communities, inviting them in to share the true meaning of Christmas. We will have lot's of carol singing with music with our new outdoor sound system and keyboard.

We need volunteers to help in a variety of roles in planning before hand and in execution on Christmas Eve. If you are able and willing to help in any capacity, please contact

Karen Teague at kteague1988@gmail.com

WE NEED FIREPITS....if you have a fire pit that you can loan the church for Christmas eve, please contact Karen.

Serving Our Youngest Neighbors

Serve the young folk in our community by giving the joy of opening a toy on Christmas to someone who might not otherwise be able to experience that blessing.

We are collecting new, unwrapped toys in a box downstairs at church until December 10. Toys will be donated to Toys for Tots, a service of the U.S. Marine Corps since 1947.



Grades 1 thru 6

Lessons are now available online at
<https://www.trinityfuquay.org/sunday-school>

Angier Food Pantry Needs:

Breakfast Cereal
Rice

Please drop off any donations at the church.

The Food Pantry is also looking for volunteers to collect, sort and pack food.

Christmas Poinsettias

Trinity's altar guild will be adorning the sanctuary and altar on Christmas to the glory of God with beautiful poinsettias. The flowers remind us of the star that shone that first Christmas to light the way to the Christ child.

Poinsettias may be given in memory of and in thanksgiving for loved ones by using an envelope, which will be in the pews for this purpose beginning November 21. Please place the envelope in the collection plate.

Your beautiful poinsettias can be taken home after the second Sunday of Christmas, Jan. 2nd. Annette Stowe will be happy to answer any questions.

annette@annetestowe.com



Wednesday Noon Bible Study is Steady

The Wednesday Noon Bible Class is continuing a study of a selection of the books left out of the canon of the Bible completing a study of the first three chapters of the Cathar and Gnostic favorite Gospel of John before moving to Cathar history and Gnostic selections.

The second half of the class will continue as a theological review of the next Sunday's Gospel.

Call Deacon Bob if you have any questions at 919-285-2338.

Why List The Deacon's Doings?

Richard Rohr in his Daily Meditation for Friday 11/19/21 entitled "The Power of Surrender" cites author and activist Holly Whitaker's views to help answer the headline question.



Whitaker states, "Surrender is the strongest, most subversive thing you can do in this world. It takes strength to admit you are weak, bravery to show you are vulnerable, courage to ask for help. It's also not a one-time gig; you don't just do it once and move on. It's a way of existing, a balancing act. For me, it looks like this: I pick up the baton and I run as far as I can, and I hand it over when I'm out of breath. Or actually maybe it's like: I'm running with the baton, but the Universe is holding on to the other half of it, and we have an agreement that I'll figure out the parts I can handle and hand over the parts I can't."

Surrendering to God's will is the toughest part of discerning, then accepting a vocation in the world. Every member of our parish family has to make this decision. That's why, last month and this, I've been writing about the many different ministries that this deacon took part in beginning some 23 years ago when I was ordained. And, this is just the list to serve this parish family.

Every parish has different needs and the chameleon-like deacon tries to help wherever there is a need. While the deacon serves in many roles, any member of the parish family can serve in the roles that makes them a unique individual in their sphere of expertise. Let's take a look at some of the other areas of ministry this one deacon is involved in.

We left off last month preparing for the 206th Diocesan Convention a few days ago. While this convention limited my participation in the Election Committee as the one day convention was done completely through the electronic world, there were also the Diocesan Liturgy and the issue oriented debates that brought the problems facing the diocese in this COVID/Climate Changing world into focus.

Like the last Convention, participation was important so that we deacons can be voices for change in the world. From Convention, your deacon went off on our first

real vacation since before coming to Trinity. We shared family time and made Thanksgiving memories with our sons and their families.

Yes, sabbatical time is ministry. You have to take care of yourself before you can be healthy enough to serve others, especially as COVID still rears its head. Keeping my Glaucoma under control and Cyn's cancer stable means that health problems won't stop us from participating in other ministries like the Diocesan Deacon Retreat and spiritual direction.

Whether listening to the weekly Diocesan Calls from Bishops Sam and Anne, serving those in need on the FACES Board or through the Outreach Committee, or joining the Wednesday Noon Bible study Class, all call for volunteers with life skills to share.

As we wait for news of a new rector and once again wish each other a Happy New Year as Advent rolls in, the question to ask is, "Will we surrender to God's call and share our willingness to serve others in our lives and parish family as we face life following the love that Jesus shares with us?"

Deacon Bob, TSSF

The Altar Guild Needs YOU.

As we return to in-person services, the Altar Guild continues to need workers to prepare the sanctuary for worship and prayer.

The activities are not hard; the reward is immeasurable; and the camaraderie can't be beat. There are many options to participate. Experienced Altar Guild members are ready to mentor one and all.

Please consider joining this vital ministry for our church. Contact **Edna Gaston** (ladybug.gang@gmail.com) for more information or to volunteer, . Can we count on YOU?



December Birthdays



12/3 Susan Keedy
12/5 Kate Reichert
12/8 Marianna Heim
12/16 Bill Jenkins
12/17 Sharon Garrison
12/19 Alexander Lamont
12/21 Michael Lamont

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

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:
prayerrequest@trinityfuquay.org

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



Sonnet Sequence with Todd Truffin

i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes
(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)
how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any--lifted from the no
of all nothing--human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?
(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)
-- e e cummings , 1950



Poetry *was* before writing. Long before the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* were transcribed into written words, they were sung and memorized. The connection to song was so strong that even after Gutenberg's printing press made the printed word available to more and more people, poems rarely took advantage of visual presentation of words. (Anglican priest George Herbert is a notable exception.) Then, the 20th century happened.

We know e e cummings most perhaps for his unconventional punctuation, word order, capitalization, and presentation of his poems on the page. Yet, despite the typographical gymnastics, many of his poems are fairly straightforward sonnets and other forms. However, the visual pyrotechnics are mere rebellion or style.

Look through the text of "i thank You God." What do you notice about which words are capitalized? Most especially, notice what cummings does with the first-person pronoun. What does the choice of lowercase and uppercase suggest about the relationships between the nouns those words identify?

As we enter Advent and look towards Christmas, I revel in cummings's awe at the "greenly spirits of trees," his celebration of "the sun's birthday...the birth day of life and

of love and wings." His wonder that any "human merely being" could possibly "doubt unimaginable You."

The poem is a standard Shakespearean sonnet. We've seen over the months that a Shakespearean sonnet builds three observations or statements leading to a pithy two-line summation or conclusion. Here, the speaker turns the oft repeated dictum from Psalm 118 "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" into a raucous celebration of new life touching all of the senses. What then is the result of leaping trees, of the sun's birthday, the move from no to yes? Hopefully, we can join the shepherds on that first Christmas night and "the ears of my ears awake...the eyes of my eyes are opened."



Here's Your Chance to Provide Altar Flowers!

Now that some are meeting in person and others are worshipping online, the opportunity to dedicate flowers for the altar is open.

For those who wish to participate, please email **Annette Stowe (annette@annetestowe.com)** at least 2 weeks in advance.

In the email please include the desired date, name of donor(s), reason for dedication (in memory of . . . , in honor of . . . , in thanksgiving for , , . to the glory of God . . .etc) , and indicate who will be picking up the flowers after the Sunday service.

Then mail a check for \$25 to Trinity Episcopal Church and indicate "flowers" on the memo line. Please contact Annette to sign up or if there are any questions.

Let Us Know What's Happening

The Trinitarian is one way we communicate what's going on in our little patch of the Jesus Movement. You don't have to be an official leader of a Church Ministry to submit news to *The Trinitarian*. If God is doing something amazing in your corner of the world, we want to hear about it. If a member of your family is serving God outside the church walls, we want to hear about it. If you hear about an opportunity to minister to the community, we want to hear about it. If you are celebrating an important milestone or achievement...you guessed it, we want to hear about it.

Don't worry if you think your writing skills aren't "newsworthy," the editor will be happy to massage the knots out 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

Join us in person and wearing a face-covering at 10:15am Sunday.

Services are also presented LIVE on our **YouTube** channel at 10:15am Sunday.

Subscribe to TECFV on YouTube. You can also view past services whenever you would like.

