

# THE TRINITARIAN

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## Bringing in the Sheaves Just Got Easier

### Online Giving with PushPay – I set mine up in a few minutes!

As a small church, we started our online giving program with a relatively free service called DonorBox. It allowed you to pay pledge or make donations online safely with a credit card. Since then we upgraded to a more flexible service called Vanco which expanded the capability to being able to text a donation!

Now, we are phasing out both DonorBox and Vanco and encouraging our online parishioners to get behind a service called PushPay, and the service is being funded by the Diocese. PushPay is Vanco on steroids. PushPay is totally secure, and they are developing a phone app just for Trinity!



After our mailbox at church was broken into, we encouraged everyone to sign up and pay online – even setting up a recurring payment for your pledge. We would like to drive that thought once more because, when it comes to money, you need to feel secure that your information is watertight.

Here are some typical questions

#### 1. Is my information secure?

It's natural to be concerned about digital security. Giving solutions like Pushpay are proactive about security. They work with world-class security professionals to review and test their app regularly. This guarantees that data is secure *and* that there are never problems with service.

They guarantee that their app is about 2,000 times more secure than handing a waiter your credit card to go and swipe.

#### 2. Is it less spiritual to give digitally?

When we give an offering, we put a physical item that represents value onto the plate. The act of giving something tangible makes it seem important. When you give digitally, nothing physical is exchanged, so it feels different. And when you sign up for recurring giving, the money comes out automatically, so there's no regular *act* of giving. Isn't that less spiritual?

We're called to sacrificially give to support God's kingdom. The spirituality lies in the sacrifice of giving, not in *how* or even *what* we give. When the Old Testament was written, people gave grains, spices, and animals. In the New Testament, they gave currency (typically in the form of coins). Times change. Thankfully, we no longer have to bring sheep to church.

### 3. Can I cancel or change my recurring giving amount?

Recurring giving is a huge benefit for Trinity. Parishioners decide on an amount they want to give, plug it into the app, set a frequency, and let it run. When the time comes, the app transfers the money to the church. This gives us a steady income we can rely on and mitigates problems that arise from people forgetting to give, or giving at unusual and unpredictable intervals.

**The power lies with you the user.** You can turn off recurring giving at any time or change the amount. That means you can decide to give more or less based on your circumstances.

### 4. Will digital giving show up on my end-of-year giving statement?

Giving used to be a lot harder to track. We used envelopes and noted the check giver, so there was the comfort of getting an accurate giving statement. If you threw cash into the offering, there was no way that it was getting recorded unless you put it in an envelope and wrote your name on it.

A big plus of digital giving is that everything you give is meticulously tracked. Not only will your end-of-year giving statement be *more* accurate, but you can easily check your progress any time of the year.

### 5. Am I too old to give digitally?

No Way! Technology can feel overwhelming for Seniors. My mother, for example, focuses her resistance on some imagined fault with the tech, but the truth is that she is mostly overwhelmed by learning a new approach—especially when it affects her finances. This is good news. We can teach our seniors to use an app!

It would be a mistake to write off our older parishioners: a 2017 Pew Research study found that 42 percent of people over 65 had a smartphone—and that's more than double the amount in 2013. If you focus on the demographic between 65–69, the number shoots up to 59 percent. That's a considerable amount of people becoming more comfortable with digital technology. Let us help you to get set up on PushPay!

Learn more at

<https://www.trinityfuquay.org/online-giving-pushpay>

Martin Steel, Senior Warden



# Fuquay-Varina Active Adult Task Force

Are you aware that Fuquay-Varina does not have a program or center that caters to residents 55 or older? In fact, about 25% of the Town's population is, at least, 55 years of age. To address this situation, a number of residents – long-timers and those who have moved from elsewhere – formed the Fuquay-Varina Active Adult Task Force several years ago.

The Task Force's primary goal is to increase the awareness of elected officials and the community at-large of the need for programs and activities for local senior citizens. Over the time of its existence, the Task Force has given presentations to various groups and explained to governmental officials the organization's concerns. To date, we have achieved some success with the inclusion of a Senior Center in the plans of the new Community Center.

The Task Force's job is not yet complete, so we are seeking additional members and support. Charles and Marilyn Fischer and Edna Gaston are members. Visit the group's web-site [www.fuquay-varinaseniors.org](http://www.fuquay-varinaseniors.org). Feel free to contact any of the above for additional information.



# Here's Your Chance to Provide Altar Flowers!

As our services move to the live-stream, the opportunity to dedicate flowers for the altar is open.

For those who wish to participate, please email **Annette Stowe ( [annette@annetestowe.com](mailto: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.

The first Sunday available is June 6. Please contact Annette to sign up or if there are any questions.



## The Altar Guild Needs YOU.

Do you enjoy our beautiful and meaningful services from Mother Susan and Deacon Bob? Do you realize the setup does not just magically appear? While normally a dedicated team of volunteers called The Altar Guild setup and clean up, our rector and deacon have shouldered most of those efforts during our COVID protocols.

Very soon our services will be live streamed, and hopefully we can be together in person. As we progress to a schedule similar to the past, the Guild will return to action and more assistance will be needed. 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. A Zoom meeting will be scheduled very soon as plans for the future evolve.

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



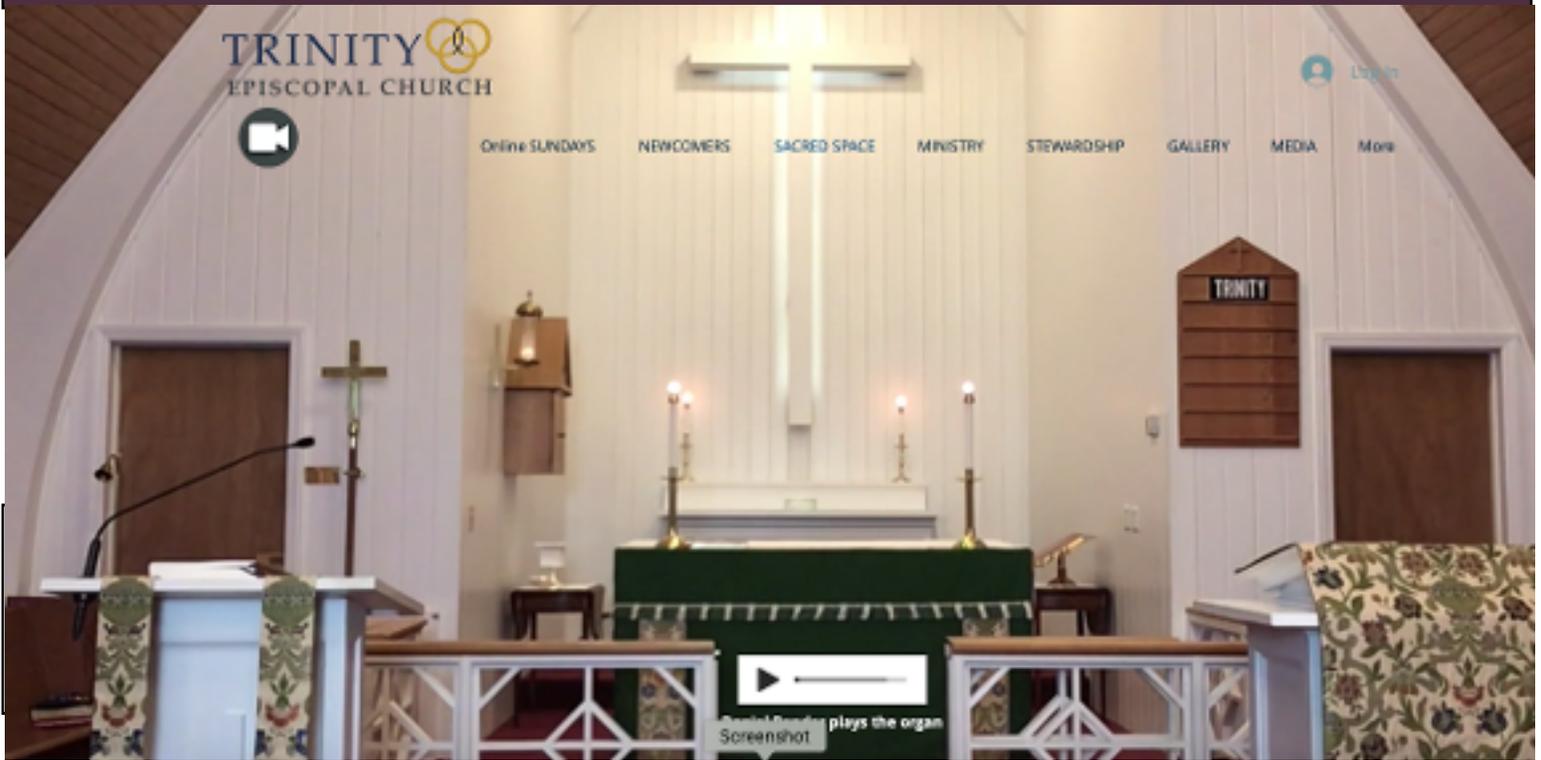
# July Birthdays

7/3 Allison Earnest	7/19 Ann Margaret Braham
7/3 Grace Kern	7/21 Jeannie Stowe
7/3 Susan Steel	7/21 Jeff Fallanca
7/4 Mitch Macauley	7/29 Lea Lillie
7/5 Pat Cicione	7/30 Victor Cortes
7/6 Nancy Rodgers	
7/8 Lois Whittaker	
7/15 Bob Whittaker	
7/18 Robert Rubin	
7/18 Daphne Jackson	



**If we missed your birthday or have the wrong date, please email [srwarden@trinityfuquay.org](mailto:srwarden@trinityfuquay.org)**

## SACRED SPACE



We hope you can take advantage of being at church on our "**Sacred Space**" page. This video of the space plays automatically when the page opens. To listen to our organist, Daniel Ponder, please click the play button and adjust your volume accordingly. There may be a slight delay on the music starting depending on your internet speed.

# ERD Goes Anywhere That Need Exists

There used to be a saying that “Samaritans Purse and ERD are the first on the scene in a crisis.” Now, Chad Brinkman, the campaign director of **One Thousand Days of Love** writes “Our international partnerships address challenges in some of the most remote areas of the world, as well as in urban environments where extreme poverty persists. In many of these places, the Church is often one of the few institutions people trust and turn to for help in the absence of government systems and services.”



Instead of imposing one-size-fits-all solutions, **Episcopal Relief and Development** supports unique, local long-term initiatives that address the effects of poverty, disaster and disease. Through our Asset-Based Community Development methodology, ERD works with communities to recognize their existing skills, gifts and resources. Thus, ERD empowers and works alongside local leaders and residents who are best equipped to identify and address the most pressing needs.

Whether the need is for clean water, to fight a malaria outbreak, to improve agriculture practices, to provide maternal or child health, to improve sanitation and hygiene practices, to support micro-financing practices, to reduce disaster risk or to assist with gender issues including gender based violence.

Episcopal Relief & Development works in collaboration with church partners and other local organizations to facilitate healthier, more fulfilling lives in communities that are struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster and disease. ERD also works around the world and here in the US responding to and rebuilding after disasters.

Their programs impact the lives of over 3 million people annually. ERD respects the dignity of all people and views them as neighbors, working alongside participants regardless of religious affiliation or background.

Their unique expertise, experience and practical knowledge allow them to guide communities to lasting change with a focus on three key priorities: women, children and climate.

Trinity just participated in ERD's One Thousand Days of Love drive which will give the youngest and most vulnerable in our world a chance to thrive, but we are also working to build the world around them so that their success supports the great village that it takes to raise a child. What ERD sows today will be the great gift that leads to a better tomorrow. Brinkman added, “As I reflect on the year that has been, I am comforted by the reality that we are building a bright and blessed community of world-changers and leaders each day that we invest in a child.”

Trinity Outreach donations assist this program in helping so many throughout the world. If you would like to add to what the vestry budgets, make out a check or electronic donation with “For ERD” on the “for” line.

Deacon Bob Thomas, TSSF



## 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 OR if you don't have access to the church, you can leave food at 809 Sunset Drive in Fuquay at the Bowles residence. Frank has a clean 20 gallon trash can in front of the garage door on the right hand side.

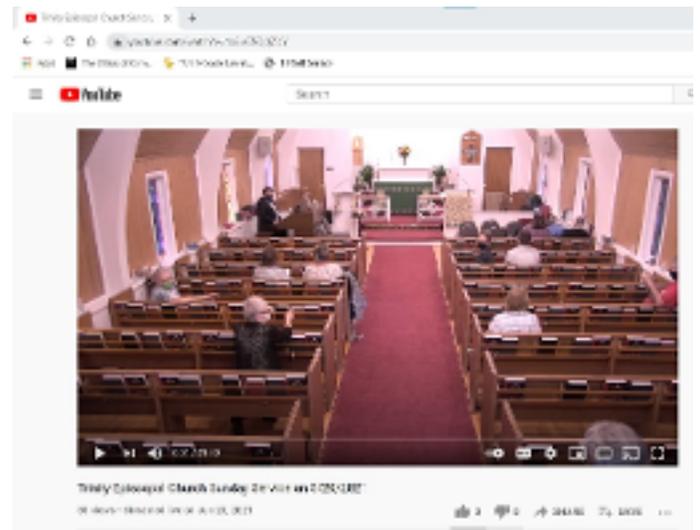
The Food Pantry is also looking for volunteers to collect, sort and pack food.

For more details you, email Frank at [bowlesfa@gmail.com](mailto:bowlesfa@gmail.com)

## Sunday Worship

Services are LIVEstreamed on our **YouTube** channel every Sunday Morning at 10:15am.

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



## Save These Dates!

### July 17th - Ice Cream Celebration -

celebrating the fact that everyone LOVES ice cream!

### September 5th - Bring Your Own Food PICNIC!

Grab a cooler, some chairs and hang out.

### October 3rd - Blessing of the Animals

This event will be bigger than ever with FOOD TRUCKS and an open invitation to the wider neighborhood of Fuquay-Varina to come join us.

# Sonnet Sequence with Todd Truffin

## Primary Wonder by Denise Levertov (1996)

Days pass when I forget the mystery.  
Problems insoluble and problems offering  
their own ignored solutions  
jostle for my attention, they crowd its antechamber  
along with a host of diversions, my courtiers, wearing  
their colored clothes; caps and bells.

And then

once more the quiet mystery  
is present to me, the throng's clamor  
recedes: the mystery  
that there is anything, anything at all,  
let alone cosmos, joy, memory, everything,  
rather than void: and that, O Lord,  
Creator, Hallowed one, You still,  
hour by hour sustain it.

Various resources will tell you that "ordinary time" in the Church calendar is so named not because this is the part of the year that is normal, bland, or non-special but because this part of the year is enumerated using ordinal numbers (first, second, third, etc). The dirty secret is that the *Oxford English Dictionary* tells us that an obsolete definition of *ordinal* is "conforming to order, rule, or custom; regular; [wait for it] ordinary." *Primary* is another interesting word that we sort of know. Primary school, primary color, primary systems. The OED confirms



that primary first meant "occurring...first in a sequence," but it reveals that not long after that the word also came to mean "not subordinate to or derived from anything else; that is the source or cause of something." Let's see how this definition opens up Denise Levertov's 1996 poem "Primary Wonder."

Levertov's sonnet-like thing flips the Italian structure on its head: the *sestet* comes first followed by the *octave*. Yet, the order of observation/comment remains the same. While not adhering to the rhyming requirement of traditional sonnets, Levertov clearly marks the divisions by repeating the word *mystery* at the ends of lines one and seven. The Turn is a quite mundane "and then."

The opening lines observe a condition that I have felt quite often in these pandemic days. "I forget the mystery." It's not just that the mystery is forgotten; the mystery is overrun by noisy "problems insoluble and problems offering their own ignored solutions." How many problems do we face that bring with them their own solutions, but we ignore the proffered fix? The crowd of "courtiers" with their distracting clothing and loud noise drown out the mystery of God's presence.

"And then." One of the great mysteries of God's still small voice is that sometimes, even in the midst of the "throng's clamor," it gently pierces the din and reminds us that He is there, that He is primary. The source and cause of everything not only is there but "hour by hour sustain[s] it" and us.

# Let Us Know What's Happening

The Trinitarian is one way that our church has to 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.

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

**Now Streaming Services LIVE at 10:15am Sundays**



TRINITY   
EPISCOPAL CHURCH