

THE TRINITARIAN

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Mother Susan & The Call of a Rector

We Trinitarians have now begun the process to call a Rector for the first time in the history of the parish. As a *mission* of the Diocese of North Carolina our priest was designated a *Vicar* and sent to us by the Bishop. Now that we are a *Parish* of the Diocese of North Carolina, we have the privilege and the responsibility to call our own *Rector*. I would like to share with you a few thoughts about the call of a Rector in the Episcopal Church. Most members of Trinity have not been Episcopalians their entire lives, and even those who call Trinity their original church home have not experienced the call of a Rector before.



There is a great deal of variety in the calling of clergy leadership from one denomination to another. So, let me say what we are not. We are not like the Roman Catholic Church or the Methodist Churches where the clergy leader is assigned by the Bishop or larger church organization. We are also not like the congregational denominations like Baptists and the Congregational Church where the entire congregation votes for the candidate they prefer. Instead, we walk a middle way between total hierarchy and total direct democracy. The Episcopal Church's plan for calling a Rector gives authority to the **Diocesan Bishop** and his or her representatives (in our case Catherine Massey), to the **Parish Leadership** (our elected Vestry), and to the individual **Priest**. It is important for us to understand that no priest can function in our diocese without permission from the Bishop so the Bishop's approval is a necessity. Likewise, no priest can function in a parish without the consent of the congregation, so the people's assent voiced through their representatives on the Vestry is also a necessity.

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The Call of a Rector (cont'd)

So, how do we find and call the right person? There are two main options:

(1) A church can form a search committee which is a committee of the Vestry and they can organize the participation of the congregation in forming a picture of the person they hope to call, answering the question “Which strengths, skills, and talents are we looking for?” They can consult the National Church that maintains a database of clergy and their skills and experience as well as information about which clergy are open to the possibility of a new call. They can ask members of the congregation to suggest clergy they know about who they think might be a good match. They can advertise the open position in a variety of church publications, but always with the cooperation of the Bishop’s representative who might also be contacting various people around the church for recommendations. Then they can request resumes and even ask the candidates to write long answers to a variety of questions. Then they sort the candidates according to that picture they have established for the perfect candidate and select a few, usually three, to interview in person. The church pays for the candidates and their families to visit and preach, and frequently members of the Vestry travel to the church where the priest is currently serving to see what has been accomplished there. Then the Search Committee recommends one or two candidates and the Vestry votes. Sometimes, they don’t choose one and the whole process starts over. When a candidate is chosen, a call is made, and the candidate considers whether to accept or not. If the call is not accepted, the Vestry must decide whether to begin again or whether to select one of the previous candidates. This method is long and expensive, but it is the way many larger churches find the right person.

(2) Another possibility is to call a Priest Time Certain to be our Rector. This process is similar in some regards to option 1. The Vestry serves as the Search Committee and prepares a profile of a good candidate for their church. They work with the representative of the Bishop to disseminate the information about the opening as they did in option 1. In this option the Bishop and the Bishop’s office receive applications and review them, arrange interviews, and finally select a candidate to present to the Vestry. At that time the Vestry can interview the candidate and possibly send representatives to visit the candidate in their current position. If the Vestry is convinced that the candidate is a good match, a call is made. If they feel that the match is not good, they will tell the Bishop their decision and some information about why they feel the match to be weak which will give the Bishop additional information about what they are looking for and another candidate will be sent by the Bishop. At no time is the parish required to accept the Bishop’s recommendation. The benefits of Option 2 are that it is quicker and much less expensive but still leaves the ultimate decision to the Parish leadership. Another benefit is that when a candidate is selected and agrees to accept the call they are offered a contract for two years. Both the candidate and the Vestry know that as they move into the second year they will start a conversation about how the Church/Clergy relationship is developing. If either feels like it would be better to move on, that is the decision that is made. Most often the relationship is going very well and the Priest becomes the permanent Rector. (cont'd next page)

The Call of a Rector (cont'd)



Trinity's Vestry has chosen Option 2, and they are well on the way. A time will come in the near future when Trinity will have a Rector. Please know that this cannot ever happen without the Holy Spirit. One reason for involving so many people and levels of authority in this process is that it provides many different opportunities for the Holy Spirit to be at work in hearts and minds. If a candidate does not agree to come to Trinity, it is not because he or she doesn't like the parish, but because they don't hear the Spirit calling them to be in this place. Clearly a whole bunch of people are praying about this decision including you and me. Clearly the whole process is founded in prayer and holy expectation. ALL WILL BE WELL. IT IS IN GOD'S HANDS.

Trinity Card Ministry

If your name is in the Trinity directory, it is very likely that you have received a beautiful hand-made card on the occasion of your birthday. The Trinity Card Ministry sends these cards out to our Parish family for the big events (birthdays and other greeting) in their lives.

We are looking for individuals to be responsible for mailing cards one month out of the year - you will be provided with the cards, stamps and a list of who to send them too. All you need to do is sign the cards, address the envelopes, and pop them in the mail.

Please contact Marianna Heim (crgalvin@yahoo.com) if you are interested in volunteering or have any questions.



Reconciliation Key as We Head into Lent

Please join me in praying *The Litany of Reconciliation* written by Canon Joseph Poole in 1958. While framed around the seven deadly sins, it serves as a reminder that when we pray about the problems of the world around us, we need to begin by acknowledging the roots of those problems in our own hearts.

The Litany is prayed, in a short ceremony taking at most ten minutes, at noon each weekday, in Coventry Cathedral and in the Cathedral ruins on Fridays.



The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,
FATHER FORGIVE

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,
FATHER FORGIVE

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,
FATHER FORGIVE

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,
FATHER FORGIVE

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,
FATHER FORGIVE

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,
FATHER FORGIVE

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,
FATHER FORGIVE

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

As we look past the coup attempt into the Epiphany of the Inauguration into Lent, The Coventry Litany reminds us of this season of renewal that brings the beginning of many changes into our lives as a parish family in an atmosphere of seeking how to love those who would put our way of life in disarray.

In a recent letter, Fr. Richard Rohr wrote, “The extremist behavior and violence that took place in Washington, D.C. on January 6 was truly shocking and worthy of condemnation—many have already done so. The whole world is transfixed, bearing witness to the awful and extraordinary unfolding of history.”

He further explained, “For many people, religion as a ‘cosmic egg’ capable of holding universal Truth, collective and personal meaning, is broken. Now, the cracks in this very ‘uncosmic egg’ are rapidly spreading in all directions.

“Delusions enthrall us and inherent deceit becomes overwhelmingly apparent and manifest in the nihilism of our postmodern age, the denial of science and reasonableness, and the denial of the pandemics that now assault us all. The very future of the meanings of words and truth are at stake, as specifically exemplified by Trumpism in its many forms.”

While Rohr presents the problem succinctly, we are left to decide what to do with the pandemic-like issues that effect us: COVID-19, racism, and political conflict in both church and country. Or, are we?

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Deacon Bob (cont'd)

Taking their cue from Jesus, who is the way of Love according to Presiding Bishop Micheal Curry, the Episcopal Bishops of California call on all of us as representatives of the Christ in the world to follow Love in three ways:

1. We call on all people to embrace words and actions that are non-violent.
2. We call on all people to search for truth.
3. We call on all people to practice mutual respect.

Rohr concluded, "We must trust that the one who has called us into this present moment will also sustain us and lead us through it." As we are led, let us pray that the joy of this season of reconciliation will lead us to find that Beloved Community.

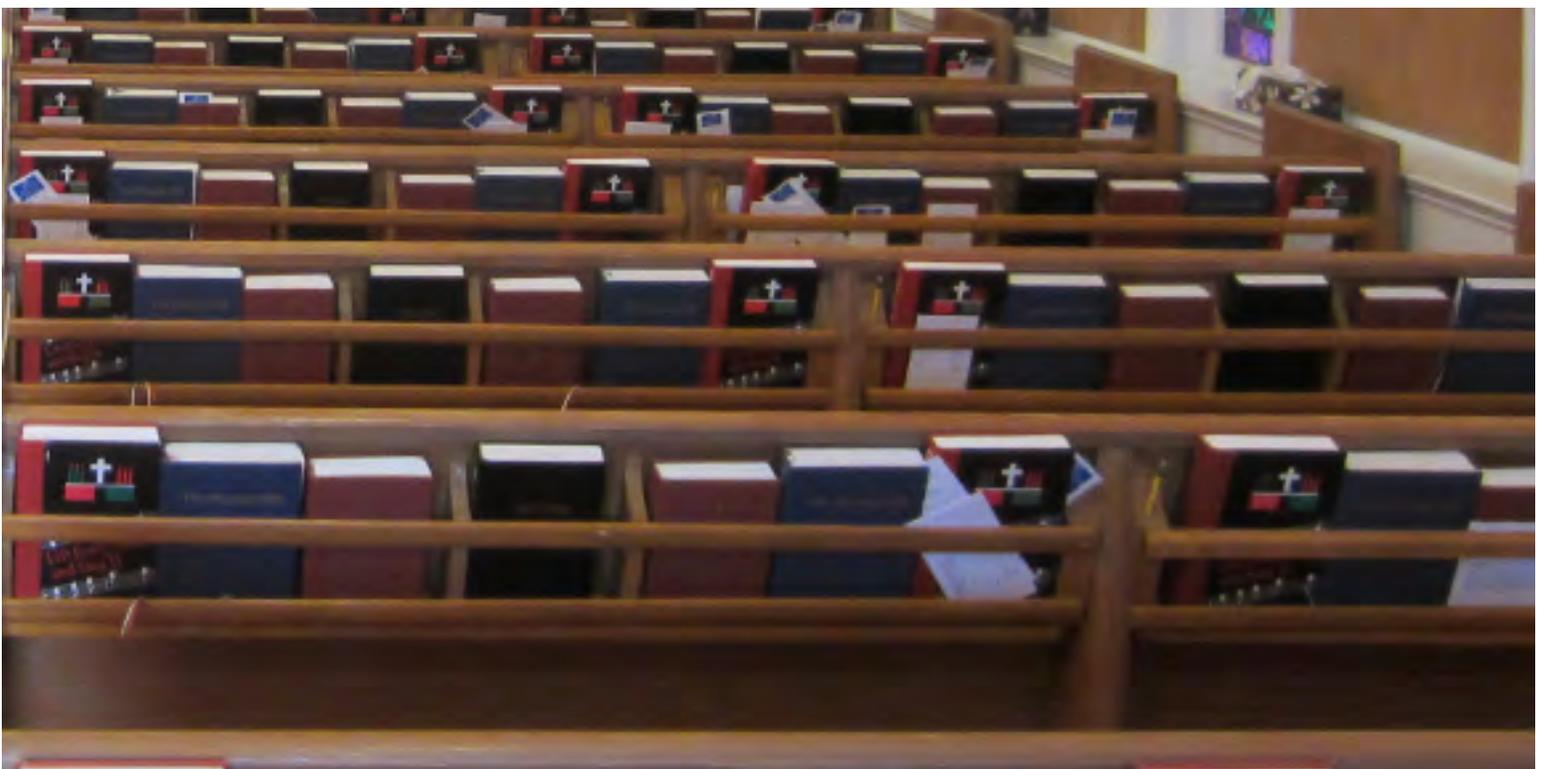
As we continue to find new ways to "Love one another," we'll look at what some of the groups performing ministry are that Outreach currently supports next time. This was too important not to share in this time of struggling with dealing with our neighbor or parish family member. Will we accept the call?

Deacon Bob Thomas, TSSF

Check out the Lendin' Library

We have established a library to help people cope with being alone during these COVID days. At latest count we have 40 books, 20 magazines, and 3-4 jigsaw puzzles available for checkout.

We also have copies of *The Anglican Digest*, a 60-page quarterly magazine containing sermons and articles about the Episcopal Church. We especially recommend *The Anglican Digest* for parishioners who did not grow up in the Episcopal Church as a sort of adult education opportunity on a personal basis.



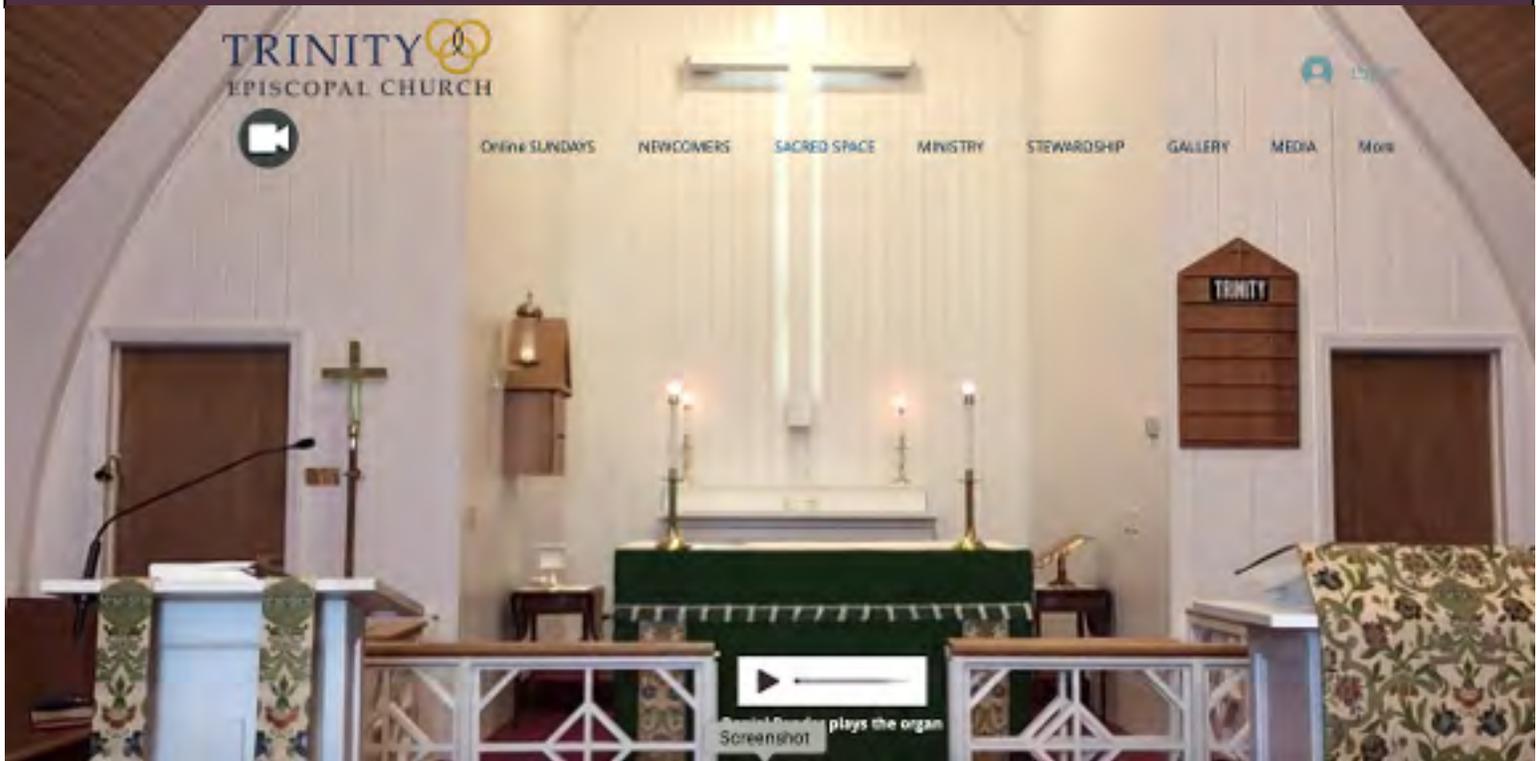
February Birthdays

2/1	Judy Stewart	2/16	Mair Gill
2/7	Frank Bowles	2/16	Nancy Joy Barthelemy
2/9	Jack McGhee	2/18	Chad Wingler
2/9	Ellie Yamamoto	2/21	Dylan Stewart
2/10	Wendy Crawford	2/25	Annette Stowe
2/14	Angela Norris		
2/15	Maria Cortes		



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

SACRED SPACE

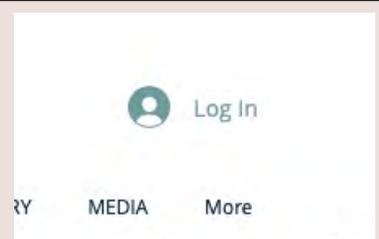


We hope you can take advantage of being at church on our "[Sacred Space](#)" page. This video of the space plays automatically when the page opens. To listen to our organist, Daniel Ponder, please click the play button and adjust your volume accordingly. There may be a slight delay on the music starting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

Updated Directory

To access the directory on the website, you must be a site member. Look for the "Log In" at the top right of the website, click and follow instructions to sign up.

Please note, access is restricted to known church members.



4 WAYS TO GIVE



GIVING BY CHECK

Drop your check in the church mailbox or mail it to Trinity Episcopal, 1128 S Main St, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526



ONLINE GIVING

This is the simplest and most secure way to give.
We process online transactions both through checking or savings accounts and through all major debit/credit cards.

CLICK TO GIVE ONLINE



MOBILE GIVING

Download the GivePlus mobile app from your app store, search 27526 and select Trinity. Click the donate button and register. Add checking or savings, debit or credit card.

STEP BY STEP HELP



TEXT GIVING

Text the dollar amount you wish to give, for example: 50, to 844-952-2166 and follow the prompts to enter a credit/debit card

STEP BY STEP HELP

A Word From The Senior Warden

For those of you who were not able to attend our annual meeting, I am happy to let you know that the church survived 2020 with grace and blessings! Even though, understandably, pledge and plate income were down, so too were expenses, and we recorded a surplus of just over \$14,000.00. As a parish, that is an outstanding achievement and a hope for what we might achieve in 2021.



You would have heard at the Annual Meeting that the Vestry approved a deficit budget for 2021. Quite simply, we expect our income to be \$15,000 less than our expenses and that we might have to dip into our savings to close the gap.

Don't be alarmed! Many folks might flash back to the not too distant past when Trinity was holding on by a thread financially. We are in different times. It is ok to have a deficit budget if the planning has been done. It has been.

Our income projection for 2021 is the same as the 2020 budget. We believe strongly that we will be able to worship together at some point this year. The deficit could take care of itself with likely increased income when we all can meet in person again. If not, we have been building up a rainy-day fund, and we have the money if necessary.

Our expenses will increase this year because we plan on calling a permanent 3/4 time rector. Most of the deficit can be attributed to an expense line that will cover one-time potential interview costs and one-time moving expenses projected to be around \$12,500.

So, not only do we have money set aside, but our 2020 surplus can support the 2021 deficit.

Vestry also looked at 2022. Calling a rector has to be financially sustainable. While challenging times make it difficult to plan and predict, we looked at a worst-case scenario and again planned accordingly. We believe we will resume the pre-Covid growth we were enjoying and that the influence of a permanent rector can take us even further than Mother Susan has brought us.

If you have any questions or concerns about the budget and the process and thinking behind it, please reach out to me or any other Vestry member. We will be happy to discuss.

Trinity has never been in a stronger financial position. It is wonderful that we are able to meet our needs and increase our outreach each year to meet the needs of others. Vestry is totally committed to maintaining this in the years to come.

Happy New Year, and I think it will be!

Martin Steel



Grades 1 thru 6

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

Angier Food Pantry Needs:

Breakfast Cereal
Crackers
Cookies
Rice

Donations can be left on the back pews in the church - enter by the front door.

Need an entry code? email swarden@trinityfuquay.org

Sunday Worship

Services are available on our **YouTube** channel every Sunday Morning. Subscribe to TECFV on YouTube and view whenever you would like.

Join our **Zoom Meeting** to view the service and share fellowship with your Trinity Episcopal family.

10:05am: Join meeting, Greet and Chat

10:15am: The host will mute all microphones, and begin the service.

10:50am: Host will unmute microphones at the end of the service, and you can mingle in a virtual coffee hour.

Zoom Meeting information is sent out in each week's bulletin.



Sonnet Sequence with Todd Truffin

Anglican priest Malcolm Guite posted on his blog that "Ash Wednesday" began as he was performing the "traditional task of burning the remnants of last Palm Sunday's palm crosses in order to make the ash which would bless and sign our repentance on Ash Wednesday." The act of burning the palm fronds to make a symbol of personal repentance became for him "also signs of the wider destruction our sinfulness inflicts upon God's world and on our fellow creatures, on the whole web of life into which God has woven us and for which He also cares."



Guite fashions this sonnet in the English style with three four-line groups followed by a rhyming couplet. The poem opens with a priest addressing a recipient of ashes, reminding the reader that the ashes come from the remains of the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration. Then, the poem quickly turns to global concerns—"the forests of the world are burning." Guite may have had in mind the 2010 fires in Russia and California, but such calamitous environmental destruction has been almost common in the ten years since.

The second quatrain echoes the Biblical image of nature itself celebrating. The cause of celebration would be the listener recognizing that Christ is the God of nature as well as the Redeemer of humankind. Guite makes an intriguing case here. If we acknowledge that nature is under the kingship of Christ that means nature also is our neighbor. Guite argues that acknowledging the kingship of Christ over nature means that we should therefore love nature as we do our human neighbors.

As the poem moves into the third quatrain, the sonnet performs a classic turn. The attention shifts from the listener to Christ. While the first eight lines present a call to repentance, the next four lines illustrate the pain caused by our sin, our failure to take care of God's creation (Gen. 2:15). Guite reminds us that the choices we make in the marketplace have an impact on those burning forests, forests that are turning to ash even as we ourselves are walking towards our inevitable end.

The final couplet brings us back to where we started—the cross of ash on our forehead. It would be easy to despair that all the world is marching towards doom. But Guite reminds us of where those ashes on our forehead come from—the celebration of Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, the beginning of remembering the Resurrection. The Gospel is that Jesus conquered the ashes. Repentance, covenant, recognition, rising from ashes: these upward verbs start with receiving the ashen sign of the cross on our foreheads and entering into a Holy Lent "by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" (BCP 265).

"Ash Wednesday" by Malcolm Guite (2012)

Receive this cross of ash upon your brow,
Brought from the burning of Palm Sunday's cross.
The forests of the world are burning now
And you make late repentance for the loss.
But all the trees of God would clap their hands
The very stones themselves would shout and sing
If you could covenant to love these lands
And recognise in Christ their Lord and king.
He sees the slow destruction of those trees,
He weeps to see the ancient places burn,
And still you make what purchases you please,
And still to dust and ashes you return.
But Hope could rise from ashes even now
Beginning with this sign upon your brow.

Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King are women who desire a closer walk with the Lord. We are Christian women, both lay and ordained, who are strengthened through the discipline of a Rule of Life and supported through the companionship of our sisters.

During the past year, Trinity's **Ruth and Esther DOK Chapter** grew to 13 members. We had several Zoom meetings. We serve the rector, church, and community. Our outreach projects include interceding for Trinity's prayer requests; visiting Senters' Memory Care Unit – some members made Fidget pads and hats, others donated books, toiletries and stockings for the residents – Dementia/Alzheimer Outreach; working with the Angier Food Pantry; participating in Military Missions in Action annual Stand-down; and delivering small items to FV Homes for the Elderly.



For more information on the chapter, contact Carlene Galvin Harris at crgalvin@yahoo.com

To ask the Daughters of the King to pray for any need or concern, email prayerrequest@trinityfuquay.org

COME WORSHIP ONLINE THIS SUNDAY!

