



The Vine...

Connecting the Body of Christ one to another

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Essex, 1131 Mace Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21221
(410) 687-5531 www.holytrinityessex.org May 2020



FROM THE RECTOR

*We are an Easter people
and Alleluia is our song!*
(Saint Augustine)

Dear Friends,

Years ago, I preached an Easter sermon that began, "There were no Alleluias on the first Easter."

It's a point worth thinking about, in this Eastertide when we remain mostly confined to our homes and fearful of what may happen next.

The disciples were huddled in that upper room, fearful for their lives, not knowing whether someone would come to arrest them and take them to a fate like Jesus's. Even when some of the women came back talking

about an empty tomb and what might have been angels, the disciples didn't really believe them, and they certainly didn't sing "Alleluia!"

We may not quite be huddled in our homes. We may not be afraid of arrest and imprisonment and execution. But we are afraid. We are afraid of illness, and being alone, and yes, we are afraid of death. It took the disciples a long time to realize the truth of the Resurrection. They had to encounter the Risen Christ in many situations in order for that truth to sink in.

We have this difference from those first disciples: we are the heirs of their experience and we have their testimony and their lives as well as our own experiences of Our Lord's presence in our lives. We know that the Resurrection is real; we know that Our Lord is with us always; and because we know that, we can sing "Alleluia!" and mean it.

Yes, we are, as Saint Augustine said, an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song. Sing boldly, my friends, even in this time of pestilence: sing Alleluia!

God bless you all.

Faithfully,

Mother Annette



Alleluia! Christ has Risen, the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!! Happy Easter. I pray you all stay healthy during this time of crisis, remembering our hope is in Christ Jesus!

Yours in Christ,
Cindy+

FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH

Dear Friends in Christ,

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

We all experienced very different Easters this year, certainly not our traditional church services and eggs hunts and family dinners. But one positive I found was having time to sit and live in the moment. To think and pray on Maundy Thursday, to reflect and contemplate the happenings of Good Friday, the quietness on Saturday awaiting the miracle of Easter! That Easter miracle brings with it hope for each and everyone of us. Our fear of this pandemic can be washed away by the hope we have in Christ Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."
John 11:24-25

The hope given us on that Easter Day 2000 years ago is the same promise we have today. Faith and belief in our Lord and Savior doesn't stop bad things from happening but it gives us strength knowing He is always with us and has paid the debt for our sin, so that we may have life eternal.

Church News



EASTER EGG UPDATE!

Many thanks to Grace Waddell and her volunteer team of candy Easter egg makers! We also thank those who made monetary donations and those who donated supplies needed to make the eggs. To date, we have made \$3,110 from the sale of the eggs! Even though we had to suspend sales for now, we still have plenty more in cool storage to be sold when we are able to return to church. So, please plan to sell some more eggs at that time! We sold out of peanut butter but we still have vanilla, chocolate and coconut available.

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EASTER FLOWERS



Some parishioners had already ordered Easter flowers before the Coronavirus Pandemic closed our doors temporarily. In an effort to support local business as much as possible, the Vestry chose to honor our Easter flower order with Essex Florist. Since we were not able to enjoy the flowers on the altar, we planted them in the garden area near the St. Francis of Assisi statue.

Even though Essex Florist is closed to walk-in customers, they are open for business by telephone and Internet. If you are interested in placing an order, please call them directly at 410-686-8842. You can also visit their website at: <https://essexflorist.net/>

NOAH RODRIGUEZ-HOBBS

Even though many of us may feel like we are stuck in neutral, Noah is moving full-speed ahead! It will be nice to see him and all of you when we are able to meet again in person!



DOLLARS AND CENTS *(FROM MOTHER ANNETTE)*

Parish Finances

Some of you have asked about the financial health of our beloved parish. I can tell you that income is slow and the Vestry shares your concerns. We do urge all of you to keep up with your pledge payments – either by sending checks or by using the online portal on the diocesan website. A number of you have begun to pay your pledge once a month, which is very helpful.

Please put your check in your church envelope inside your mailing envelope. Also, write your name and the amount on the church envelope. This helps the tellers who are counting and recording the pledge payments.

Thank you to all who are keeping up with their pledges!

Your Personal Finances

I know that some of you are concerned about your own paycheck or about your businesses. I have an email from Senator Cardin explaining the many new government programs to help. This is a long and very complex email, and it contains a number of links to more specific information: therefore, it's not suitable for printing and mailing to you. If you want to read it, please email me, and I'll email it to you.

LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

Due to Coronavirus concerns, the Eastern Interfaith Outreach (EIO) Food Pantry is currently closed. However, there is another local food pantry available at St. Clare Catholic Church located at 714 Myrth Avenue in Essex. They are open on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon for people to drop off donations or to pick up food items if in need. Those receiving aid must bring ID showing that they are residents of either the 21220 or 21221 ZIP code.

When arriving at St. Clare's, enter the parking lot on the fire station side, go past the steps, to back of the school. The doors are right around the corner on that end of the building. Drop off and pick up of food items will be done outside of those doors.

If you are donating, St Clare's could use the following: Instant Mashed Potatoes, Small Boxes of Pancake Mix, Syrup (small), Any Canned Vegetables, Canned Meats (tuna, chicken, spam), Ramen/Cup of Noodle Soups.

Please do not leave the food at any times other than Tuesday between 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. There is no one at the church to take the food at other times.

In addition, on Monday evenings between 4:00-6:00 p.m., St. Clare's will be distributing \$5 McDonald's gift cards to those in need.

Please share this information with your friends, family, and neighbors in case anyone needs food at this time. Thank you.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

John Morris – 5/1
Bob Metz – 5/10
Justin Brooks – 5/21
Christina Florentine – 5/22
Charles Keller – 5/23
Beverly Hagner – 5/30



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Carlos Hernandez and Maggie Giordano-5/2
Jason Kamrath and Brett Robinson – 5/11
Buzz and Jackie Spence – 5/22
Don and Michele Alves – 5/22

ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS, SEE LEAH



O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servants, that their weaknesses may be banished and their strength restored; and that, their health being renewed, they may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mary Bogert
Melody Magin (Mary Bogert's Daughter)
Charlotte Nicholson (Janice's Sister)
Alice Martin
James Florentine (Dave's brother)

Elizabeth Shifflett (Ron's aunt)
Jack Acly
Ellen Wallace
Danny Mitchell
Marie-Elena Riggio (Frank's cousin)
Connie Bitetto (Frank's cousin)
Winnie Briscoe (Frank's cousin)
Wayne Preston (Gary's brother)
Bill & Di Anderson (Joan's son and daughter-in-law)
Chris Anderson, Sr. (Joan's son)
Joan Anderson
Ryan Perry (Helen's grandson)
Debbie McCall (Helen's daughter)
Ruth Anthony
Joanne Piper
Tina Barberia (Teresa's family friend)
James Baker (Millie's brother)
Margaret Oduor
Gladys Agandi
Heather Hildebrand (friend of John and Jeannie)
Tina Goins (niece of John and Jeannie)
Kathleen Monroe (friend of John and Jeannie)
Valerie Mehl
Rachel Nealis
Madi Novak (Anne's great niece)
John Morris
Jeannie Morris
Judy Harle
Kenneth Harle
Bob Metz
Todd Metz (Bob's son)
Bill Hightower (Cindy's brother)
Linda Quinn (Mary Anne's sister-in-law)
Jane V. Quinn (Mary Anne's mother)
Chris Ratajczak (Darlene's son)
Leonard Ratajczak (Darlene's husband) **
Edward McClanskey (Darlene's friend)
Dewald Family (Ratajczak family & friends)
Phyllis Thomas (Denise's aunt)
Frank Riggio-Preston
Gary Preston
Ruth Riggio (Frank's cousin)
Nancy Taylor

Pat McGee
Richard Chin (friend of Lynn French)
Michelle Chin (niece of Richard Chin)
Wilbur Zink (family of Janice)
Jesse Fields (Tim's son)
Julie Crosby
Bella Wilhide (Lynne Clementoni)

** As you know, transplantation of an organ can not only save a life but can greatly improve the quality of life. Leonard Ratajczak, Darlene's husband, needs a kidney transplant. If you or someone you know might consider donating a kidney, please be in touch through Deacon Cindy. And please pray for Len and for all those awaiting organ transplants.

PLEASE ADVISE LEAH OF ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

PRAY FOR OUR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Please pray for members of our congregation who work in health care settings:

Laura Nielsen, Cindy Christopher+, Pam Gatchell, Denise Thatcher, Josh Rodriguez-Hobbs+, Don Alves, Mary Acly, Tamara Dishon, Jody Leonard, Joey Reichert, Lisa Balderson.



COFFEE HOUR

Please sign up on the chart on the wall in the hall to host a Sunday coffee hour. If you want to know what this entails, please see Millie Reichert.

PARISH HALL RENTAL

The parish hall is rented on a strictly first come, first serve basis. If you would like to rent the hall, you must speak with Leah Seay, Parish Secretary. All events are to end at or before 11:00 pm, and the hall is to be cleaned and ready for use the next morning. **NO HALL RENTALS UNTIL SERVICES RESUME.**



FLOWER MEMORIALS/ THANKSGIVINGS

If you would like to offer flower memorials or thanksgivings, please complete a form with your instructions, along with a check for \$30.00, and return them to Teresa Schutte-Regester.

The 2020 forms are on the table in the narthex. Memorials are on a per Sunday basis, not per name. More than one person may donate on any given Sunday.

COVID CORNER

Temporarily, we have replaced the “Church Humor” section with “COVID Corner”. This has been a stressful (and sometimes boring) time for many of us. However, please see below for a bit of humor in the situation. Also below are some websites with information on how you can take “virtual tours” to entertain yourselves while you are at home. Enjoy!

Humor:

-- Day 7 at home, and the dog is looking at me like, “See? This is why I chew the furniture.”

-- I get to take the garbage out today. I’m so excited, I can’t decide what to wear!

-- I watched the birds fight over a worm. The Cardinals lead the Blue Jays 3-1.

--I struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He’s a Web Designer.

Virtual Tours:

The **Maryland Zoo at Baltimore** offers live-feed cameras of several areas of the Zoo. Tune in to see how the zookeepers and animals are continuing on during this time:

<https://www.marylandzoo.org/animals/live-cams-feeds/>

Travel and Leisure has compiled a list of 12 famous museums that offer virtual tours that you can take online from your couch:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours%3famp=true>

And **Good Housekeeping** has compiled a lengthy list of museums, zoos and theme parks offering virtual tours from home. Check it out:

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/travel/a31784720/best-virtual-tours/>

MORE HOLY TRINITY HISTORY...

HOLY TRINITY “OBSTACLES”

In the 73 years of Holy Trinity’s history, there have been quite a few obstacles that we had to overcome, so I will, to the best of my memory, tell you about the Big One!

When Holy Trinity was still just a basement on Eastern Avenue, the rain brought frequent floods. Many times, the parishioners were separated by water between the pews and the altar, so they waded to the altar for Holy Communion, returning to their pew with wet feet! Often there was a frog or tadpole floating in the water. Finally, when Father John Grant came to Holy Trinity, he organized a group of men and boys who dug trenches around the church that diverted the water away from the building.

Another near fiasco happened when a group of young hoodlums broke into the church and set fire to the Sunday School curtains. Fortunately, the fire was noticed and a major disaster was avoided. Yes, the young boys were apprehended.

When Holy Trinity was relocated to Mace Avenue, we were told this church was a “new, modern, efficient building”. Unfortunately, this was not the case. The floors were always cold, and the heating plant was not sufficient. One very cold, freezing winter, all of the pipes over the kitchen froze, and the kitchen and hall were flooded when the pipes burst. After we cleaned up, it was decided to insulate those pipes to prevent this from happening again. We remained vigilant whenever we had a freeze and with only a second small flood, we never had a flood in this area again. Eventually, it was decided to insulate the entire upper portion of the church.

In the Spring of 1987, we were under the guidance of Father Thomas Nicoll. We suffered another setback when Fr. Nicoll opened the doors one morning, only to be greeted by rolling black smoke! It seems that all of the insulation upstairs that was covering the pipes had been smoldering for some time. It was described as a “smoke fire” (no flames) but just as damaging. We were displaced for most of the summer with other area churches allowing us to use their facilities.

The next time we had an obstacle thrown in our path was after a heavy snowstorm. The snow piled up on the church roof causing the section over the hall to collapse. A sign posted on the front door said the building was unsafe. There was the question of “can the church be saved?” Upon investigation, it was proven that the builders used the wrong size (small) trusses to hold up the roof.

A committee was formed to mount up a campaign to save the church. Parishioners pledged to the financing of a new roof and once again, with the help of St. David’s Roland Park via a loan, Holy Trinity was saved.

Another flood (and hopefully the last!) occurred about five years ago. A member of the Altar Guild, upon entering the Narthex, saw water pouring out of the ceiling in the Secretary’s office and the Library (these two rooms are now one workspace). This was in the evening hours and after many distress calls, parishioners answered the call with shop vacs, mops and buckets. There was extensive damage to walls, ceiling and carpeting.

As of this writing, all has been well on Mace Avenue. Holy Trinity is still standing and vibrant to its ministry to this part of Baltimore County.

I also realize that in two more years, Holy Trinity will celebrate 75 years in Essex!

Submitted by Teresa Schutte-Regester

HOUSEKEEPING NOTES

Since we do not have a paid cleaning service for the church, please remember to clean up any trash or spills during or after Coffee Hour. The mop handles are labeled for use specifically in Kitchen, Hall or Bathroom to avoid cross contamination. If you need to use a mop for a bigger spill, please use the correct one.

If you have questions, please ask John Morris, Wes Thatcher, or Asa Seay. Thank you.

Also, if you happen to use the last of a roll of paper towels or toilet paper, please replace it. The extra supplies are kept in the storage room toward the back of the Parish Hall, near the Operation Backpack Outreach cabinet. If you’re not sure, just ask!



MESSAGES

Anne Knott maintains the primary list of e-mail information. However, if you change your email address and you don't give the change to Anne, it is not possible for her to notify you of situations impacting the parish. Anne can be reached at anneews@verizon.net or see her on Sunday's after the 10:00 service.

MAILING LIST UPDATES

For changes to your home address or phone number, call the parish office at 410-687-5531 or see Leah Seay or Jeannie Morris after the 10:00 service on Sunday.

VESTRY OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Senior Warden - Christine Kinard
Junior Warden - John Morris
Assistant Junior Warden - Wes Thatcher
Treasurer - Mary Acly
Registrar - Theresa Ridgeway
Financial Secretary - Jean Bowen

Vestry Members:

Gary Riggio-Preston	Arielle Juberg
John Morris	Christopher Acly
Laura Nielen	Loretta Gischel
Scott Rodriguez-Hobbs	Ron Mardaga



FINAL WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Items for the June Newsletter are due by May 15.

There is no Ministry Schedule or Calendar for May.