

June 2015

Volume 4, Issue 2

Trinit-E News



Our Mission

In and through Christ, to restore people to unity with God and each other (2 Cor. 5:14-21)

REFLECTION

As we prepare to elect a new Presiding Bishop I thought this was appropriate for all of us to read.

A Memorial to the Church

What is a Memorial?

At particular junctures in our common life, members of the Episcopal Church have come together to call upon its people and leadership to read the signs of the times, to discern the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and to act with boldness to proclaim the gospel in new contexts and situations. One concrete method that call can take is a Memorial to Church. We believe that we have reached one of those critical junctures in the life of our church, and respectfully submit a Memorial calling for the church to recommit itself to the spiritual disciplines at the core of our common life, to go into our neighborhoods boldly with church planters and church revitalizers, and to restructure our church for the mission God is laying before us today.

A Memorial to the Church

To the Deputies and Bishops of The Episcopal Church assembled at the 78th General Convention:

Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did. So there was great joy in that city. Acts 8:4-6,8

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(Reflection, cont.)

In the eighth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, the newly formed church of disciples of the risen Savior found itself in a new situation. No longer could Christians depend on traditional ways of following Jesus and traditional places in which to do it. Driven out of their comfortable existence praying in the Temple in Jerusalem and waiting for the kingdom to come, they found themselves in new and unexpected neighborhoods, developing new ways of proclaiming the Word. Yet they found that the crowds were eager to hear the Good News of Christ and welcomed it with joy. The very loss of the old ways of being the church gave them opportunities to expand and multiply the reach of Christ's loving embrace.

Our beloved Episcopal Church is in a similar situation. We must find new ways of proclaiming the gospel in varied and ever changing neighborhoods. Old ways of being the church no longer apply. We can no longer settle for complacency and comfort. We can no longer claim to dominate the political and social landscape. We can no longer wait inside our sanctuaries to welcome those who want to become Episcopalian.

We have a choice before us. We can continue, valiantly and tragically, to try to save all the rights and privileges we have previously enjoyed. We can continue to watch our church dwindle until it someday becomes an endowed museum to the faith of our forebears. We can continue business as usual until we lose our common life entirely.

Or we can lose our life for Jesus' sake so that we might save it.

We, the undersigned, hold dear the Episcopal Church and believe passionately in the gift this church offers. Washed in the waters of Baptism and nourished from the deep springs of word and sacrament, we experience the power of God's presence as we open the Scriptures and celebrate the Eucharist. We stand in awe of the mystery of the Holy Trinity and the power of the triune God to love, to forgive, to make whole. We know the joy of serving God through serving others. We long for a world with every unjust structure toppled. We love this church enough to yearn for it to be transformed.

We recognize the importance of this present moment. We join the Task Force for Reimagining the Church in calling for the church to follow Jesus into the neighborhood, traveling lightly. Our deepest hopes and aspirations are not dependent upon any particular act of this Convention. Many essential steps are found in the daily walk of discipleship undertaken by congregations and individuals throughout the church, and we commend the work of many who are helping the church adopt these discipleship practices. This Convention, however, has the opportunity to act on a number of matters that can support God's faithful people, our parishes and missions, and our dioceses in living out the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

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(Reflection, cont.)

Specifically, we call upon the people of the Episcopal Church to:

- Recommit to reading scripture, praying daily, gathering weekly for corporate worship, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom, knowing that engaging in these practices brings personal and corporate transformation;

- Share the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed, including learning how to tell the story of how Jesus makes a difference in our lives, even and especially to those who have not experienced true transformation;

- Pray and fast for the Holy Spirit to add day by day to those who come within the reach of Christ's saving embrace;

- Encounter Jesus Christ through loving service to those in need and through seeking justice and peace among all people.

And we call upon those bishops and deputies gathered for Convention to the following actions as specific ways we may enter this time of transition in a spirit of exploration, discovering the gifts that the Holy Spirit has for us in this moment:

- Engage creatively, openly, and prayerfully in reading the signs of the times and discerning the particular ways God is speaking to the Episcopal Church now;

- Pray, read the scriptures, and listen deeply for the Holy Spirit's guidance in electing a new Presiding Bishop and other leaders, in entering into creative initiatives for the spread of the kingdom, and in restructuring the church for mission;

- Fund evangelism initiatives extravagantly: training laborers to go into the harvest to revitalize existing congregations and plant new ones; forming networks and educational offerings to train and deploy church planters and revitalizers who will follow Jesus into all kinds of neighborhoods; and creating training opportunities for bilingual and bi-cultural ministry;

- Release our hold on buildings, structures, comfortable habits, egos, and conflicts that do not serve the church well;

- Remove obstacles embedded in current structures, however formerly useful or well-meaning, that hinder new and creative mission and evangelism initiatives;

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(Reflection, cont.)

Refocus our energies from building up a large, centralized, expensive, hierarchical church-wide structure, to networking and supporting mission at the local level, where we all may learn how to follow Jesus into all of our neighborhoods.

Like those early followers of Christ, we find ourselves being scattered out of familiar and comfortable places and ways of being the church. Rather than be ruled by memory and consumed by fear, we can embrace this crisis, trusting that the Lord of Life will give us everything we need to spread the Gospel, proclaim the kingdom, and share the love of God. May God grant great joy in every city and neighborhood into which we go.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Brown Snook Tom Ferguson Scott Gunn Frank Logue
Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale Steve Pankey
Adam Trambley, and

Bishops Barry L. Beisner Scott Benhase C. Franklin Brookhart Ian T. Douglas Andrew Doyle Douglas Fisher Jeff W. Fisher Robert L. Fitzpatrick J.
Michael Garrison Mary Gray-Reeves Matthew Gunter A. Robert Hirschfeld Anne E. Hodges-Copple Nicholas Knisely Chilton Knudsen James R. Mathes
Dorsey W. M. McConnell Michael P. Milliken Jacob Owensby Lawrence C. Provenzano
Greg Rickel Sean Rowe Kirk Smith Wayne Smith Pierre Whalon Terry White George D. Young III



Please Pray For: Georgia, Frances and Bob, Ara May, Glen, Ellen and Wayne, Nancy, Cathy and Barry, Elizabeth, Jeanette, Ed, Judy, Frances, Fr. Roy, Rose and B.G., Emily, Debby, Debi, Ana, for members of Morgan City Police Department, those serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America; our partners in mission at the Deaneries of Copan and Maya in Honduras and our sister parish Cristo Salvador; and our prayer partners in the Anglican Diocese of Tohoku, Japan; and the Anglican Diocese of Lango, Uganda

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

02 Jaclyn Garber
03 Charlotte Ann Bell
08 Alanna Rink
10 Jason Webster
11 Patrice Rogers
17 Jack Osborne
24 Hallie Rogers
30 Ed Bell



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

1 Peggy and Paul Coats
1 Katherine and Chad Ross
3 Ed and Veeder Bell

Ministry Schedule June 2015

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28	July 5
CELEBRANT/ Officiant	Fr. Travers	Fr. Lasiter	Fr. Travers	Fr. Lasiter	Fr. Travers
PREACHER	"	"	"	"	"
SERVER(S)	Sean D	Currie S	Tim C	Sean D	Tim C
CHALICE	Charles P	Irving B	John S	David W	Tim C
LECTOR	Judy W	Elizabeth B	Roger B	Jane W	Mary H
INTERCESSOR	Lisa P	Elizabeth B	Judy W	Jane W	Lisa P
GREETERS	Ray Kunst	Drew M	Debi B	Ray K	Ray Kunst
ALTAR GUILD	Peggy C Mary H	Ben M Cathy B	Doug O Judy W Jennie R	Ed Bell Jane W Fr. Roy	Peggy C Mary H
VOD	Mary H	Peggy C	Roger B	Lisa P	Tim C

Busyness

By

Lisa Parsiola

Fr. Lasiter asked each person on Vestry to contribute an article to the newsletter. My immediate thought was, how about you follow me around for a week and see if you can find time when I can construct such an article. I don't have time for that!

What I have learned since the assignment is that I am a Martha, like it or not, and I need to find time each day for God, even if it's only five minutes because God is my first priority.

Very often, my life feels like something between a train wreck and a three-ring circus. How is it that I am so overwhelmed, exhausted, and busy when we, as Westerners, live in such an advanced time and place? Well, it's because of the explosion of opportunity and mind-boggling complexity. The challenge is that there are endless ways for me to keep my mind occupied. With the tech boom, I can check email, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and more 24/7. Seeing how everyone else lives, behaves, and travels either makes me want more or makes me feel insecure about what I am achieving. This threatens my spiritual life and ruins my joy.

I believe that much of my busyness is the result of wanting to meet people's expectations. I try to finish my clients' design work in a timely manner, try to plan fun activities for my family, and try to meet my sales quotas. I wonder sometimes if this is a manifestation of pride and therefore sin. Or is it poor planning? I don't quite know. What I do know, however, is that my weeks are sometimes unbearable and I often feel as though I live in a state of mild disappointment with myself. Something's gotta give!

I've decided to take Jesus' story of Mary and Martha and apply it to my life. Martha was busy doing tasks that she thought were important, but Jesus told her that she was being pulled away from what was better. I don't want to give God my left-over time anymore. I want to start each day with Him; so I plan to do a daily devotional. I hope this habit will give me a better perspective on my obligations and make my to-do lists seem less significant so that I am more rested and less worried each day.

God's word won't grow in my heart if I have no time for rest, quiet, and calm. I intend to plan less, relax more, and sit at His feet.

PS: Thank you, Fr. Lassiter, for the assignment. It was just what this busy girl needed!

June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.	3 Choir 5 p.m. A.A. 8 p.m.	4	5 A.A. 6 p.m.	6
7 9:30 H.E Fr. Travers No Potluck	8 Vestry 6 pm	9 Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.	10 Choir 5 p.m. A.A. 8 p.m. HE 6 pm	11	12 A.A. 6 p.m.	13
14 9:30 H.E Fr. Doug	15	16 Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.	17 Choir 5 p.m. A.A. 8 p.m.	18	19 A.A. 6 p.m.	20
21 9:30 H.E Fr. Travers	22	23 Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.	24 Choir 5 p.m. A.A. 8 p.m. HE 6 pm	25	26 A.A. 6 p.m.	27
28 9:30 H.E Fr. Doug	29	30 Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.				

Recycling Information

Thanks to everyone who has continued to save aluminum cans for our recycling program at Trinity. Please don't put aluminum pie/cake pans or aluminum foil in your bags though because the recycling company doesn't accept them. They have to be removed before the cans are weighed. The money earned from recycling is used to buy kitchen supplies for Trinity.



Trinity Episcopal Church

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PHONE:
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Sunday Services
9:30 AM

Fr. Doug Lasiter

Our Vision

Recognizing that we are all one in Christ, Trinity Episcopal Church is an embracing family, growing spiritually, and joyfully serving the community; a home that comforts the spirit; a place where people's gifts for ministry are identified, nourished, and shared; and place of learning where disciples are formed.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.trinitymcla.org

www.facebook.com/trinitymcla

We walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

