



The Abbeville Anglican



The Newsletter of Historic Trinity Church

Volume 17

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Number 09

Blessing of the Animals

Our annual Blessing of the Animals will be done on October 1st at two pm in the parish garden. The service is done in the Catholic and Episcopal Churches usually on the Sunday closeth to the *Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi* which falls October 4th. This ancient feast commemorates the life of Saint Francis who was an Italian friar and deacon in the 12th century, and is the Catholic Church's patron saint of animals and the environment. He was widely known for his love and protection of animals and his extensive missionary ministry among the poor. Probably his most famous quotes were "do all you can to preach the Gospel and if necessary use words" and "the deeds you do maybe the only sermon some persons will hear today." He founded the famous Catholic Church's Franciscan Order, the women's Order of Saint Clare, and the Third Order of Saint Francis. Although he was never ordained to the priesthood, he was one of the most venerated religious figures in history and many Catholic and Anglican Churches bless the animals every year on the Sunday nearest his feast day. So don't forget your four-legged best friend who needs to come for the blessing in the parish garden on Sunday. The 2:00 pm blessing will be done by Father Renegar and will be followed by a light refreshment in the garden for humans and the dogs. In past years, some visitors have elected to bring a donation of dog or cat food and we have been happy to deliver these gifts to these to the Humane Society. The Blessing of the Animals has long been one of Trinity's best attended community programs. By the way, the cats are often spooked and unnerved by the dogs, so you may wish to bring a picture of your cats which may be blessed "in absentia." Please make your plans to be with us and invite your friends. "All things bright and beautiful; all creatures great and small; all things wise and wonderful, the

Lord God made them all."
(Hymn #405, The Hymnal 1982).

Happy Birthday Trinity!

Trinity Church will be 181 Years old on October 15th. The first worship service took place in the Abbeville County Courthouse on October of 1842. This month (Sunday, 15th) we will celebrate our birthday with a small reception in the parish house following the Mass with coffee and a nice piece of birthday cake. Of the 61 parishes and missions currently in the upper diocese, Trinity is the 5th oldest and is believed to have more yearly visitors than any other church with the exception of Trinity Cathedral. Old Trinity has a remarkable history. She has experienced good times and bad times, but has always lifted high the Cross and has steadfastly proclaimed the Holy Gospel and the saving graces of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Holistic Medicine Expo

Trinity was pleased to participate in the second Abbeville County Holistic Expo which was held on September 22nd and 23rd. We had a table in the Livery Stable which was hosted by the Senior Warden and Junior Wardens from which they invited people to visit Trinity and the Labyrinth. Trinity also hosted the Saturday lectures which went on for most of the day. The church also welcomed 67 visitors on Friday and 127 visitors on Saturday which included lecture visitors and usual Saturday visitation. The lectures were interesting and well presented and directed toward the achievement of a healthy mind, body and spiritual integration to produce a more overall healthy and self-actualized individual. We also emphasized a relaxed and contemplative environment in the church to accommodate quiet music, centered prayer, meditation and the opportunity to light a meditation candle. As always, our Saturday mission is to have our many visitors leave the church with a feeling of joy, hope and a sense of inner peace.

What??!

Episcopal Bishops gathered on September 19th for the start of a 4 day online House of Bishops meeting on the theme "the vocation of the Bishop now," particularly as it relates to challenges associated with membership decline and growing concerns over clergy accountability and perceptions that Bishops are not held to the same standards as other clergy and lay leaders. The report claimed (as reported in the September article on the Episcopal News Service) that numerous cases are currently pending in the Episcopal Church against bishops who have been accused of being involved in inappropriate and unacceptable activities one of the most graphic in a case in which a bishop was accused of making sexual advances toward the female president of the House of Deputies. The news article relates how all these problems are having an adverse effect on increasing the steady decline in church membership and many financial issues, in some cases leading to the closing of quite a few parish churches. Grave concern has also been expressed by the current Presiding Bishop and Primate, Michael Curry, who has been distracted due to his current illness and hospitalization. The ENS article did state that the news is not all bad in that there are still many parishes within the national Church that are still communities whose primary focuses are hospitality and love, who seek to offer a place that helps people create a sense of hope, peace and meaning in their lives. Thankfully, our Trinity falls into that category, and we remain always grateful to our excellent Bishop and diocese for their support in our mission. From Episcopal News Service.

Ideas?

Please consider giving us an article for the newsletter about some area of concern to you that might also be of interest to our members. Your ideas and comments will be welcome.

Feast Days in October:

Saint Luke

On October 18th the Church celebrates the *Feast of Saint Luke the Evangelist*. The inspired author of the third Gospel and the *Acts of the Apostles*, was a native of Antioch in Syria, a physician, and an early convert from paganism. He was with Saint Paul on a number of his missionary journeys. He was also his companion while in prison at Rome on two occasions. His accounts of these events, contained in the *Acts of the Apostles*, is first hand history. Luke's Gospel is above all the Gospel of the merciful heart of Jesus. It emphasizes that Christ is the salvation of all men, especially the repentant sinner and of the lowly. Legend says that Luke painted the Blessed Mother's portrait. It is certainly true that he painted the most beautiful word picture ever written of the Lord's Mother. Saint Luke was a practicing physician and one of the first converts to Christianity. He accompanied Saint Paul, who converted him, on several of his important missionary journeys and was still with him in Rome while Paul was in prison awaiting death. We hear no more of him afterwards and nothing is known of his last years. The Church venerates him as a martyr. Saint Luke's Gospel is principally concerned with salvation and mercy; in it are preserved some of the Lord's most moving parables, like those of the lost sheep and the prodigal son. Dante called Luke the "historian of the meekness of Christ." It is also Saint Luke who tells us the greatest part of what we know Jesus' childhood. Saint Luke did not personally know Jesus, and like Saint Mark, the author of the second Gospel, he is not included among the Apostles. Saint Luke died in Achaia (Greece) at the age of 84 years. It is believed that he died a martyr, but the nature of his death is not known for sure.

Saint James of Jerusalem

On October 23rd, we celebrate the *Feast of Saint James of Jerusalem, Brother of Our Lord Jesus Christ and Martyr*. Saint James was the brother of Jesus and author of the epistle that bears his name. He was not a believer until the Resurrection of Jesus, but once he came to the Faith, he was a bold witness to the Gospel and a faithful leader of the early Church, even staying Jerusalem to minister to his flock during a period of intense persecution when the other Apostles left the city. Saint James presided over the Council of Jerusalem, as described in Acts 15, in which a major dispute between

the Jewish Christians and the Gentile converts was settled. The Jewish Christians insisted that the new converts be circumcised, and Saint Paul and Saint Barnabas stood in strong opposition. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Saint James pronounced that the Gentiles were not required to observe all of the ceremonial requirements of the Mosaic Law, but that they must be sure to put away the idolatry and sexual immorality that were rampant in their culture. Saint James was widely known as a man of prayer. In fact, he spent so much time on his knees that they became calloused, and he was fondly referred to as "camel-kneed." His piety and strict adherence to the Law of God won him the respect of both Christians and Jews, and he was widely known as James the Righteous. In 62 AD, the temple leaders began to fear the spread of Christianity under the influence of James, so they determined to kill him if he would not deny Christ. Having been called before the High Priest, he continued to preach the Gospel, encouraged by shouts of "Hosanna" from the Christians in the crowd. Angered by his persistence, the priests and scribes took him to the top of the temple and cast him down to the ground. He survived the fall and began to pray for his persecutors, but someone in the mob clubbed him to death. Several other Christians in the crowd were martyred that day. Eight years later, when the temple was destroyed, the historian Josephus named the murder of Saint James as one of the causes for God's judgment on Jerusalem.

Saint Simon and Saint Jude

On October 29th, we celebrate the *Feast of Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles*. Saint Simon is listed on all four lists of the apostles. On two of them he is called "the Zealot." The zealots believed that the messianic promise of the Old Testament meant that Jews were to be a free and independent nation. God alone was their King and any payment to the Romans was a blasphemy against God. The Zealots were chiefly responsible for the rebellion against Rome which ended in the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Saint Jude is also named by Saint Luke and in the *Acts of the Apostles*. Saint Matthew and Saint Mark call him Thaddeus. He is not mentioned elsewhere in the Gospels, except where all the Apostles are mentioned. Biblical scholars hold that he is not the author of the Letter of Jude. Jude had the same name as Judas Iscariot and it is believed that

because of the disgrace of that name, it was shortened to Jude in English. As with all the Apostles except for Peter, James and John, we are faced with men who largely unknown, and we are struck by the fact that their holiness is simply taken to be a gift of Christ. He chose some unlikely people: a former Zealot, a former crooked tax collector, two "sons of thunder," an impetuous fisherman, and a man named Judas Iscariot. This all reminds that holiness does not depend on human merit, culture, personality, achievement or effort. It is entirely God's creation and gift. God needs not zealots to bring about his kingdom by force. Saint Jude, like all the saints, is the saint of the impossible: only God can create his divine life in human beings. And God wills to do for all of us. Just as Christ was sent by the Father, so also he sent the Apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit. This he did so that, by preaching the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15) they might proclaim that the Son of God, by his death and resurrection had freed us from the power of Satan (Acts 26:18) and from death and brought us into the kingdom of his father. (From the Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy).

Saint Francis of Assisi

On October 4th, we celebrate the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, Full details on page one. The saint is also regarded for his famous and well-known prayer.

The Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love. Where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union, where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not seek so much to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Come to the Park

The area in the church year near the Labyrinth is beginning to take on more the appearance of a park with visitors at the picnic tables, walking the Labyrinth and even getting together with some friends for a quiet lunch. During the expo, it really got interesting to watch the tai che and yoga folks working out. In the coming pleasant autumn days this is a good place to spent some time.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OCTOBER 2023

This is the day which the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 18 Pentecost 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist 2:00 pm Blessing of The Animals (Parish Garden)	2	3	4 Francis of Assisi Friar and Deacon 1226W	5	6	7
8 19 Pentecost 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 Noon Vestry Meets	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 20 Pentecost 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	16 Thomas Cranmer Archbishop of Canterbury, 1556 R	17	18 Saint Luke The Evangelist (Altar: Red)	19	20	21
22 21 Pentecost 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	23 Saint James Of Jerusalem, Brother Of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Altar: Red)	24	25	26	27	28 Saint Simon And Saint Jude, Apostles (Altar:Red)
29 22 Pentecost 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am	30	31	Eucharistic Lectionary Year A Office Lectionary Year I	Our Service Books: BCP—Book of Common Prayer BOS—Book of Occasional Services LFF—Lessor Feasts And Fasts The Hymnal 1982	Quiet Please It is respectfully re- quested that all talk cease when the High Altar is lit for the Mass. "But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him. Habakkuk 2:20.	+ Want to be an evangelist? Invite someone to church. They just might surprise you and show up!

October 1, 2023 (Proper 21)

Celebrant: Father Renegar
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Dick
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Michele
 Altar Color: Green
 1st Lesson: Exodus 17-1-7
 Psalm: 78:1-4,12-16
 The Epistle: Philippians 2:1-13
 The Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

October 8, 2023 (Proper 22)

Celebrant: The Rev. Lynn Sanders
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Charleen
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Myra
 Altar Color: Green
 1st Lesson: Exodus 20-1-4, 7-9,12-20
 Psalm : 19
 The Epistle: Philippians 3:4b-14
 The Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

The Vestry will meet at 12:00 Noon, October 8th, immediately following the Mass.

October 15, 2023 (Proper 23)

Celebrant: Father Flanagan
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Ruth
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Michele
 Altar Color: Green
 1st Lesson : Exodus 32 :1-14
 Psalm: 106:1-6, 19-23
 The Epistle: Philippians 4:1-9
 The Gospel: 22:1-14

October 22, 2023 (Proper 24)

Celebrant: Father Flanagan
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Mary Anne
 Acolytes: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Lewis
 Altar Color: Green
 1st Lesson: Exodus 33:12-23
 Psalm: 99
 The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
 The Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

Excellent Bible Study with Hank every Sunday, 10:00 am, parish house. Great lessons and discussion. You are invited.

October 29, 2023

Celebrant: Father Rhoades
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Dick
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild Michele
 Altar Color: Green
 1st Lesson: Deuteronomy 32:13-22
 Psalm: 90:1-6, 13-17
 The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
 The Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46

On October 29th, we welcome the Rev. Canon Stephen Rhoades as our Celebrant at the Mass. Father Rhoades is our Diocesan Canon to the Ordinary, which is the Chief Assistant to the Bishop. Father Rhoades is an avid historian and has visited Trinity on several occasions.

Notes Along the Way—If you are not reading the Bishop's monthly meditations on the diocesan website, you are missing a wonderful opportunity for inspiration and enlightenment. They are cleverly contrived and beautifully presented. He charmingly concludes by reminding us to be faithful and that he will see us along the way. Amen. (edusc.org.).

Trinity Episcopal Church

Post Office Box 911
200 Church Street
Abbeville, South Carolina 29620
www.trinityabbeville.org

Our Mission Statement:

Joyfully proclaiming the love of Christ in worship, outreach, welcome and care.

Our Bishop

The Right Reverend Daniel Paul Richards
The IX Bishop

Our Vicar:

The Vicariate is currently vacant.

The Vestry:

Cynthia Jefferies, Senior Warden (23)
Mary Lynn Lyle, Junior Warden (24)
Lewis Ashley (24)
Charleen Clark (25)
Ilona Anderson (23)
Dick Haldeman (25)

Parish Administrator and Registrar:

Dick Haldeman

Treasurer:

Ilona Anderson

Musicians:

John Pullin, Organist & Choirmaster
Lewis Ashley, Assistant Organist
Mary Anne Campbell, Cantor
Ruth Freeman, Cantor

Eucharistic Ministers:

Dick Haldeman
Lewis Ashley

Worship Leaders:

Dick Haldeman
Lewis Ashley
Cynthia Jefferies
Hank Baggett
Jennie Leverich

Altar Guild:

Michele Wells, Chairman
Myra Keith
Ruth Freeman
Lewis Ashley

Lectors (Lay Readers):

Dick Haldeman
Ruth Freeman
Mary Anne Campbell
Jennie Leverich
Charleen Clark

Acolytes:

Lewis Ashley
Andrew Hartsfield

Eucharistic Visitors:

Lewis Ashley
Hank Baggett
Cynthia Jefferies
Jennie Leverich

Greeters/Ushers

Ilona Anderson
Hank Baggett

Parish Historian:

May Hutchinson (In Memorium)

Children's Programs:

Jan Haldeman

Bulletins, Special Projects:

John Pullin

Sexton (Buildings & Grounds):

Buddy Wells

Diocesan Convention Delegation:

Lewis Ashley (voting)
Mike Clary (voting)
Cynthia Jefferies, Alternate
Dick Haldeman, Alternate

Newsletters:

Lewis Ashley

Sunday School/Bible Study:

Hank Baggett

For all who faithfully support this mission congregation, we give God thanks and praise

Are You Saved??

How many times have you been asked this question in the Walmart parking lot by some stranger. He will usually follow the question by handing you a religious tract that will answer the question for you. An Episcopal priest was recently asked this question in public and became quite annoyed as he was wearing his clerical collar at the time. One might wonder if the questioner was in fact making a statement about the Episcopal Church or priests in general. The Episcopal Church from its early beginnings has placed a high priority on evangelism. Most Christians are not at all comfortable talking to people about the status of their souls, and avoid the matter altogether. The Church does give us some helpful suggestions. One is, let your life be your example. None of us know how many people are watching us. Very often the view of our lives we present to other people is a clear testimony of our faith without saying a word. Our Bishop asks us to make a profound effort to serve Christ, not only with our lips, but in our lives. Give it some thought.

Numbers

We continue to see more visitors in our Saturday Afternoons at Trinity programming. We continue to receive visitors every Saturday from 12:00 Noon until 4:00 pm. Our Saturday visitors are mostly those who just drop by to see the church, spending some quiet time in the church just resting, watching the light in the stained glass, meditation and prayer, lighting a candle and some requesting prayer. Some of the groups like to request hymns and sing along with the organ. We are now also a destination church in that visitors now drive to Abbeville just to see Trinity Church. A recent family group drove 100 miles from the Columbia area and spent about two hours at the church and had historical connections to some of the families on the tableaux noted on

the memorials. These destination visitors will probably also qualify us as a Missionary Church in our outreach and community centered programming. We now also have many requests to accommodate visitors who request to see the church when it is closed. These requests come from the Chamber of Commerce, other local business establishments and a number on the gate which may be called. We are now attempting to keep track of a total monthly number which will allow Dick to include this number in his yearly parochial report to the diocese. These are recent totals which are now available:

Friday (09/22/23)—67

Saturday (09/23/23)—127 (this number represents usual Saturday drop-ins and persons attending the lectures. It is projected that the monthly total visitors for September will be near 200. Because Cynthia and Mary Lynn were keeping a table at the livery stable during the expo and promoting the labyrinth, there were probably at least 50 people who came to visit and explore the labyrinth on Saturday. We thank God for these visitors and pray that he will use this ministry for His Glory.

Letters From Our Friends;

Dear Editor:

My husband and I discovered Trinity several years ago when we began attending plays at the Opera House. We loved spending an hour at Trinity before the play with other visitors who were saying their prayers, lighting candles, enjoying the stained glass and listening to the music. We were so sorry not to be able to visit the church when it was closed and then came the pandemic. We were back in Abbeville after a long absence and although no plays anymore, what a joy to find Trinity open and vibrant again. We also enjoyed the blessed experience of attending your beautiful Midnight Mass with the splendid music. When I have been at Trinity, I have always thought of the quote from the Gospel of Matthew when Jesus said: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest—" a place of quiet rest near to the heart of God. Well, you are stuck with us and now that you are back, we will be back also. It's just a short drive to from Greenville. Maybe we will bring our church bus if you can deal with all those Baptists.

Emma and Bob
Greenville, SC

Dear Emma and Bob:

Bring them on. We love Baptists. We are so glad to have you back with us. Look forward to seeing you soon again at Trinity. God Bless!

Editor.