

The Abbeville Anglican



The Newsletter of Historic Trinity Church

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Number 4

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

This is the greeting that we use to begin our worship every Sunday, and indeed every day, during the season of Easter. The call and response is taken, in part, from the Gospel of Saint Luke (Chapter 24). The scene is the end of Jesus's appearance to the unnamed disciples on the road to Emmaus. After Jesus vanishes from their sight, the disciples return to spread the good news among their fellows and find them saying the Lord has risen indeed and has appeared to Simon. This famous Easter acclamation is now heard throughout all Christendom. This call and response is a joyful shout. This is the Resurrection after the tomb! *These are the words I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled which we written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms concerning me (44). Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day (46). It is finished (John 19:20). I know that my Redeemer liveth and because he lives, I too, shall live. (George Frederick Handel, The Messiah)* The Lord is Risen Indeed, Alleluia! Amen.+

Easter Celebration

As usual, Trinity presented a full calendar of services to honor and celebrate that special time of Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Our services followed a Palm Sunday celebration with a service of Tenebrae on Wednesday evening, the usual Liturgy for Maundy Thursday and included the vigil with the Blessed Sacrament which was contained on the Altar of Repose in the Lady Chapel, the vigil continuing until midnight. On Good Friday the Stations of the Cross were recited at noon and at six in the evening, the Liturgy for Good Friday from the Book of Common Prayer. This year's service included a moving adoration of the Holy Cross and the Corpus

Christi. Friday afternoon included a Watch by the Cross following the Stations and was continued until 4:00 pm. On Holy Saturday we continued our usual Saturday programs until 4:00 pm, with meditation, prayer and organ music which featured well known songs about the cross. It was especially inspirational when many visitors came up to the organ to sing along with the hymns. To make all of these services happen during Holy Week and Easter required a lot of help from a lot of people. To all of you who worked so hard—thank you! Especially to our priests and Pastor Wales a sincere thank you. Thank you also to all of you who attended these services.

New Presiding Bishop

The slate of nominees for the Episcopal Church's 28th Presiding Bishop is scheduled to be announced on April 2nd. From this list and any petition nominations, bishops will elect and deputies confirm the new Presiding Bishop when they gather in June for the 81st General Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. The Nominating Committee for the election of the Presiding Bishop selects the nominees. In addition to electing a new Presiding Bishop to succeed the retiring Bishop Michael Curry, the General Convention will also consider proposed canonical changes that would affect future Presiding Bishop transitions. The General Convention, the triennial church-wide gathering, splits its authority between the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies; and each house has a distinct role in the selection of a new Presiding Bishop for a nine year term. In Louisville, after the committee formally presents the nominees on June 25th, the House of Bishops will gather in a closed session on June 26th to elect one of them. The House of Deputies will then vote to confirm or not confirm the results of the Presiding Bishop election. The 28th Presiding Bishop is

scheduled to take office on November 1st, and an installation is scheduled for November 2nd at the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul (the National Cathedral, Washington DC), the traditional seat of the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. For the past several years, there has been a general view in the Episcopal Church, that the present Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Michael Curry, has been an excellent example of what the ideal Presiding Bishop would be in his ministry, example in the Jesus Movement and fervent propagation of the Holy Gospel. Please continue to pray for the 27th Presiding Bishop who has been seriously ill. May it please God to continually preserve and bless His Episcopal Church USA and our Mother Church of England.

House of Bishops Meets

Around 125 bishops gathered for the Episcopal Church's House of Bishops annual spring retreat from February 28th to March 4th at Camp Allen in Navasoto, Texas. The Right Reverend Wendell Gibbs chaired the meeting while Presiding Bishop Michael Curry continues recuperating at home from recent health procedures. As usual the bishops considered all pressing matters of concern involving the national Church, ways to improve efficiency in conducting the affairs of the church, increased transparency and collaboration, and information sharing on critical incidents within dioceses. The bishops continue to express great concern about the continuing rapid decline in Church membership. The House of Bishops reported an increase number in female bishops from 10% to 35%. Several bishops expressed their pleasure that the Episcopal Church is still considered to be "the Big Tent" where everyone is loved and wanted. Our own Bishop was in Texas for the meeting.

Feast Days in April:

The Annunciation

We celebrate the Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Anglicized from the Latin Vulgate, Luke 1:26-39, the Annuntiatio nativatis Christi) on April 8th (transferred from March 25th this year.). It is the Christian celebration of the announcement by the Archangel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she would conceive and become the mother of Jesus, the Son of God, marking his incarnation. Gabriel told Mary to name her son Jesus, meaning “the Savior.” This feast occurs nine full months before Christmas, the ceremonial birthday of Jesus. According to Luke (1:26), the Annunciation occurred “in the sixth month” of Elizabeth’s pregnancy with John the Baptist. Approximating the northern vernal equinox, the date of the Annunciation also marked the new year in many places, including England, where it is called *Lady Day*. A separate annunciation, which is more brief, but in the same vein as the one in Luke, is given to Joseph in Matthew (1:18-21). The Feast of the Annunciation is one of the twelve great feasts of the Church and is among the eight that are counted as *Feasts of the Lord*. Interestingly, the Annunciation is also mentioned in the Muslim Holy Book (*the Quoran*) in Sura 003:045: *Behold! The angels said: O Mary! Allah giveth thee tidings of a word from Him: his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary. Held in honor in this world and the hereafter and of (the company of) those nearest to Allah.*

Ave Maria

Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus; for thou hast brought unto us the Savior of our souls. Alleluia and Amen.

Saint Mark

On April 25th we celebrate the *Feast of Saint Mark, the Evangelist* believed to be the author of the Gospel of Mark. After moving to Jerusalem from North Africa, Mark’s mother became one of the earliest converts to Christianity and she influenced her son to become a follower of Jesus. The disciples were welcome in her home and this is where Mark met Peter, Paul and Barnabas. There is also some good historical evidence that Mark was at the wedding at Cana and was assisting with the wine skins when Jesus turned the water into wine.

After the Ascension, Mark traveled with Peter to Rome, and later, following Peter’s death, Mark went with Paul and Barnabas to Cyprus on their preaching mission. The Catholic Church teaches that Mark died in 68 AD of natural causes. Other historical accounts state that Mark was killed as a martyr to the Faith in Alexandria. The Mark Gospel narrates the life and ministry of Jesus beginning with his meeting with John the Baptist and continuing to the crucifixion and Ascension. Mark did not witness many of the events detailed in his Gospel, but as a follower of Peter, he documented what Peter told him. Saint Mark is represented in Christian art as the historian of the Resurrection and his symbol is the winged-lion. He is often depicted holding a pen in his right hand and his Gospel in his left hand.

In The News

A fascinating article recently appeared in the London Times Sunday magazine supplement. The article made an attempt to compare and contrast the American Episcopal Church, The Anglican Church in Canada with the Church of England. The article clearly pointed out that American and Canadian Anglicans are proud to refer to the Church of England as their “Mother Church.” The article also pointed out that 60 percent of the members currently resident to the Episcopal Church came to the Church from other denominations and that only 40 percent are so-called “cradle Episcopalians.” The article also stated that the Episcopal Church is losing members at a higher rate than any other denomination in the US, probably due to its liberal nature, especially in regard to “human sexuality.” Unfortunately, the Episcopal Church is often referred to as the “church where anything goes.” Of course this accusation is strongly denied by our bishops, priests and general membership. We actually take pride in being the “church of the big tent” in which all people are welcome and wanted. Come unto us all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens and Jesus will give you comfort and rest (Matthew 11:28.). The article also pointed out that there is a standard joke in the American Church among Evangelicals ((Low Church) that all Anglo-Catholics (High Church) are for all practical purposes misplaced Roman Catholics. Interesting! It may be accurate to point out that following many years of violent hostilities between the Roman Catholic Church and the English Church there may be still some

residuals. The article pointed out that for many years the American Episcopal Church walked “lock-step” with the Church of England and was the “fair haired child” in the Anglican world. In recent years that closeness has not been so apparent. The article pointed out that in recent times, the American Church has lead the way in innovation especially in the area of human relationships and that the blessing of same-sex unions will occur also in the English Church when the canons are adjusted to accommodate. The article pointed out that the Anglican churches in Asia and Africa are infinitely more conservative than those in America, Canada and even England. The article pointed out that there is a substantial decline in church attendance in Europe and especially in England that is not yet so apparent in America and Canada. The article concluded with the impression that most of those people currently fleeing the Episcopal Church are going to the Anglican Church in North America which is a more conservative body; and that the Archbishop of Canterbury will eventually officially recognize the ACNA as another legitimate Anglican Communion in America and Canada.


Saturday Afternoons at Trinity

Rick visited Trinity on a recent Saturday afternoon. He said he was intrigued to find many visitors in the church—people walking about and looking at the church, people lighting candles in the Lady Chapel, other people praying and even some singing along with the organ. Rick sat quietly for a while, read from the Book of Common Prayer and then knelt to say a prayer. He said he had been experiencing a call from the Holy Spirit to enter the ministry in the Presbyterian Church. Today, he said, he told the Spirit he would dedicate his life to the Church. He is nineteen years old and currently a college student. We went into the Lady Chapel with him to thank God for his commitment where he lit a candle for his grandmother who had greatly influenced his Christian faith. There were at least four members of Trinity in the church at the time and who were able to join in the prayer of thanksgiving for Rick and his commitment. He is a very bright young man, will make an excellent presbyter, and lead many souls to the Kingdom. MAY CHRIST BE PRAISED! Just another busy Saturday afternoon at Trinity trying to do the Lord’s work. We hope you Trinity members and friends will join us whenever you can. A good place to see the Holy Spirit at work.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

APRIL 2024

For the sake of his sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. Amen. From the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Eucharistic Lectionary Year B Office Lectionary Year 2	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 2 nd Easter 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	8 The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Altar: White)	9	10	11	12	13
14 3 rd Easter 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 Noon Vestry Meets	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 4 th Easter 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	22 Earth Day	23 Passover	24	25 Saint Mark The Evangelist (Altar: Red)	26 Arbor Day	27
28 5 th Easter	29	30	Our Service Books: BCP—Book of Common Prayer BOS—Book of Occasional Services LFF—Lessor Feasts and Fasts The Hymnal 1982	+ All Lessons and Readings are from the BCP and the Revised Common Lectionary.	Quiet Please! It is respectfully requested that all conversation cease after the altar has been lit for the Mass—a good time for personal meditation and preparation for the Mass. Thank you.	

April 7, 2024 (2nd Sunday Easter)

Celebrant: Father Renegar
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Dick
 Acolyte: Mike
 Altar Guild: Michele
 Altar Color: White
 1st Lesson: Acts 4:32-35
 Psalm: 133 *Ecce, quam bonum*
 The Epistle: 1 John 1:1-22
 The Gospel: John 20:19-31

April 14, 2024 (3rd Sunday Easter)

Celebrant: Father Renegar
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Charleen
 Acolyte: Mike
 Altar Guild: Lewis
 Altar Color: White
 1st Lesson: Acts 3:12-19
 Psalm: 4 *Cum invocarem*
 The Epistle: 1 John 3:1-7
 The Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

VESTRY MEETS, Sunday, April 14th Immediately following Mass.

Dominus Vobiscum—et cum spiritus tuo!
 The Lord be with you. And with your spirit
 Amen

April 21, 2024 (4th Sunday Easter)

Celebrant: Father Renegar
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Ruth
 Acolyte: Mike
 Altar Guild: Michele
 Altar Color: White
 1st Lesson: Acts 4:5-12
 Psalm: 23 *Dominus regit me*
 The Epistle: 1 John 3:16-24
 The Gospel: John 10:11-18

April 28, 2024 (5th Sunday Easter)

Celebrant: Father Renegar
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Mary Anne
 Acolytes: Mike
 Altar Guild: Lewis
 Altar Color: White
 1st Lesson: Acts 8:26-40
 Psalm: 22:24-30 *Deus, Deus meus*
 The Epistle: 1 John 4:17-21
 The Gospel: John 15:1-8

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

Are you saved?

How many times have you been asked this question in the Walmart parking lot? He will usually follow the question by handing you a religious tract that will answer the question for you. An Episcopal priest was recently ask 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 making a statement about the Episcopal Church or priests in general. The Episcopal Church from its earliest 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 useful 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. It was Saint Frances who said "preach the Gospel every day, and when necessary use words." Our Bishop asks us to make a profound effort to serve Christ, not only with our lips, but in our lives and Jesus further gives us His plan in Matthew 25. Give it some thought.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:11
 KJV. Miserere mei, Deus.*

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:

Lewis Ashley, Senior Warden (24)
Hank Baggett, Junior Warden (26)
Mary Lynn Lyle (24)
Charleen Clark (25)
Dick Haldeman (25)
Michael Clary (26)
Charles Thomas Horton (26)

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
Susanne Bender Heinzerling

Lectors (Lay Readers):

Dick Haldeman
Ruth Freeman
Mary Anne Campbell
Jennie Leverich
Charleen Clark

Acolytes:

Lewis Ashley
Andrew Hartsfield
Charles Thomas Horton
Shane Horton
Michael Clary
Ilona Anderson

Eucharistic Visitors:

Lewis Ashley
Hank Baggett
Cynthia Jefferies
Jennie Leverich

Greeters/Ushers

Ilona Anderson
Hank Baggett

Children's Programs:

Jan Haldeman

Bulletins, Special Projects:

John Pullin

Sexton (Buildings & Grounds):

Buddy Wells

Diocesan Convention Delegation:

Cynthia Jefferies (Voting)
Dick Haldeman (Voting)
Lewis Ashley (Alternate)
Michael Clary (Alternate)

Thurifer (Censor):

Michael Clary

Newsletters:

Lewis Ashley

Sunday School/Bible Study:

Hank Baggett

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

A Closer Look at the Cross

It has become fashionable these days to wear crosses, not so much a statement of faith, but as a trendy accessory. Crosses are cool now. An anecdote often shared in Christian circles tells of an encounter at a department store jewelry counter. The customer says that she is interested in buying a cross to which the sales clerk replies: "Do you want a plain one or one with the little man on it?" In this Easter season and beyond we must comprehend that the cross is considerably more than a fashion statement and that "little man" spilled his blood on that cross that we may be washed in the blood of the Lamb and achieve everlasting life. Take a moment to consider what the cross meant in Jesus' day. Capital punishment is a hot topic these days. The death penalty has been around for ages and the Roman Empire in the time of Tiberius took it seriously. The Romans wanted executions to be terribly painful and as public as possible; thus, the Roman practice of death by crucifixion. We often turn away from the horror of the cross. We often want to take some encouragement from the fact that Jesus died for us, but we prefer to skip over the messy details. We should not. This brief account, based on the Gospels of Matthew and John, provides a sense of Jesus' ordeal. During the trial before Caiaphas, the priests "spit in his face and struck him with their fists." Then, "they bound Him" and sent Him to Pilate, who had him beaten. "The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head," after which "they took a staff and struck him on the head again and again." Weakened from

the attack, Jesus was unable to carry his cross the whole distance to Calvary, so Simon of Cyrene was pressed into duty by the soldiers. Christ was then nailed to the wooden cross. In crucifixion, death came when the victim suffocated as the weight of his own body made breathing more and more difficult as his strength failed. We are told that Jesus' ordeal lasted for six hours before he died. The solemnity of the cross is increasingly lost upon today's society. As Christians we must never lose sight of the true meaning of the crucifixion. It paid a huge price for our salvation. All it will cost us is our pride and self-will. Sometimes it seems to us that it is too great a price, which only indicates how far removed we are from the details of Christ's sacrifice. The extraordinary power of the cross is that no matter where we have been or how far we have wandered, we can stand in Christ's presence—just as we are. Perhaps we took a moment this Good Friday to ask ourselves which side of the breach we were on; and believing on the power of Christ's death and Resurrection, we were able to cross that bridge into a new sense of peace and joy with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Always wear those crosses not as a fashion statement, but as a statement of your faith. I AM COMING TO THE CROSS (From an Easter Meditation by Thomas Lambert.)

I am coming to the cross;
I am poor and weak and blind;
I am counting all but dross;
I shall full salvation find.
I am trusting Lord in Thee;
Blessed Lamb of Calvary;
Humbly at thy cross I bow;
Save me Jesus, save me now.
In thy promises I trust;
Now I feel the blood applied;
I am prostrate in the dust;
I with Christ am crucified..
(From the Baptist Hymnal)

Letters from Our Friends:

Dear Trinity Friends:

I was in Abbeville for the first time on a Saturday afternoon in February with my family and we very much enjoyed our visit to your church. It is beautiful and a quiet restful place. We also walked the labyrinth and I was able to explain to my children how a labyrinth is supposed to work. I am a professor of theology in Georgia and am impressed with the way you people carry out your mission. Your Saturday afternoon programming is innovative and beautifully presented. I just may bring a bus load of my students to see Trinity Church in action. Keep up the good work.
Thomas Bradford, Th.D.

Dear Dr. Bradford:

Come and see us whenever you can. You are always welcome at Trinity. God Bless.
Editor.