



# The Abbeville Anglican



The Newsletter of Historic Trinity Church

Volume 15

MAY 2020

Number 05

## Restoration Update

It has been extremely lively at old Trinity during the last month with considerable excitement for Trinity members and the general Abbeville community at large. With giant cranes in the middle of Church Street and the steeple being lifted up and down as the stabilization process was initiated, fascinating large crowds of onlookers while the iconic old church continued to reflect her majestic dignity as she continued to edge quietly toward her 200<sup>th</sup> year. The Channel 4 helicopter (Greenville) added to the excitement of the day as it hovered about conveying images to the entire upstate. A very elaborate news article covering a full page in the Index Journal referred to the cutting of timbers and balancing tension while sawing as a "very complicated dance" high above ground, to secure the tall steeple of the historic structure. Steel beams and a wooden support structure, along with other critical components, are helping to stabilize the steeple as the work continues. Once the structure is sufficiently stabilized and the architects and engineers have certified it safe, we expect to be able to reopen the church for services and visitors. For more than a hundred years, Trinity was opened daily for prayer and meditation from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. A premiere concert venue, the church presented numerous concerts and other community services and programs which were well attended by persons from Abbeville, Greenwood, Anderson and many guests from counties across the river in Georgia. Trinity members believe that once the church is reopened, fund raising will improve with so many visitors in the church, especially on Saturdays. We all look very much forward to that time when our beloved church can actively resume her mission. Ask your friends to send their contributions directly to the Preservation SC website. Some persons are electing to make their gifts to Friends of Trinity and others to

Trinity Church. All gifts are greatly appreciated!

## Church Services To Resume

The Bishop has announced that he will allow all the churches in the diocese to resume their normal church services on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. All church services in the diocese were suspended in March and no services were held in the month of April which was extremely difficult as that time of closure included all the High Holy Days of Easter. It has been an especially difficult for our Bishops who have had to make these difficult decisions throughout the national church. Many of our people have expressed how difficult it has been to experience Easter without the benefits of the Mass and the Blessed Sacrament. Many of you have stated your great appreciation for our own Bishop and his wise and courageous guidance during this pandemic which may have saved many lives. This reopening date is somewhat tentative and if it changes we will let you know immediately; otherwise, we hope to see you all at Mass on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the 24<sup>th</sup> and the High Feast of Pentecost on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Good News from an Old Friend

Many of you were delighted to know that we have recently become reacquainted with an old and good friend of Trinity, Father Douglas Renegar, who now resides in Aiken. Many of you have pleasant memories of Father Renegar who said Mass here on many occasions. When he retired several years ago to Lake Greenwood, he was a frequent visitor, celebrant and preacher here. You will remember that before his retirement he had served in a prestigious role as legate for the Archbishop of Canterbury and had represented the Archbishop all over the world. His last assignment before his retirement had been to the Anglican Legation to the United Nations. Canon Renegar was enormously popular here and

was regarded as an excellent preacher and a gentleman of infinite good humor. He is especially remembered for a beautiful midnight candle light service on Christmas Eve in which he celebrated Mass for 200 guests, mostly of the Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian persuasion. We have invited the Canon and Mrs. Renegar to visit us soon and very much look forward to that visit. We will keep you posted.

## Thank You:

To all of you who have faithfully continued your offerings during the time we have been out of the church. Your generosity has kept our financial situation to remain in good order. Thank you also to all of you whose random acts of kindness in support of the church have made all of our lives easier in this crisis. Thank you to Ilona for the beautiful Easter flowers from her garden which she placed on the altar Easter Day. Even though most of us were not able to see them, they were a lovely tribute to the Resurrection of our Lord.

## Covid-19, A Tool of the Devil

In the last few months, all of our lives have been affected by the coronavirus as have most of our fellow humans all over the world. An extensive series of articles recently on the Episcopal News Service has presented an entire picture on the good, the bad, and the ugly ways this pandemic has affected the mission of the American Church and the entire worldwide Anglican Communion. One article called the virus a direct act of the Devil to pervert the work of the Christian Church and referred to a common reference to Satan as in his role of "the raging lion walking about seeking all he can devour." (1 Peter 5:8). We have all had a first hand taste of the devil's handiwork. You might like to see some of these articles from the ENS on how the worldwide Church has responded to the pandemic.

## FEAST DAYS IN MAY:

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, we celebrate the *Feast of Saint Philip and Saint James*. We know practically nothing about Saint James except that he was the son of Alphaeus and that Jesus chose him as one of the 12 pillars of the *New Israel*, his Church. He is not the James of the *Acts of the Apostles*, brother of Jesus, later Bishop of Jerusalem and author of the letter of James. James, son of Alphaeus, is also known as James the Lesser, to avoid confusing him with James the son of Zebedee, also known as James the Greater. Philip came from the same town in Galilee as Peter and Andrew. Jesus called him directly, whereupon he sought out Nathaniel and told him about “the one about whom Moses wrote” (John 1:45). Like many of the Apostles, Philip took a long time in coming to realize who Jesus really was. As in the case of the other Apostles, we see James and Philip as human men who were selected by Jesus to become foundation stones for his Church, and we are reminded that holiness and its consequent apostolate are entirely a gift from God and not a matter of human accomplishment. “You will be clothed from power on high” (Luke 24:49), Jesus told Philip and the others. Their first commissions were to expel unclean spirits, heal the sick, and announce the Kingdom. They learned gradually that these special gifts were important sacraments of an even greater miracle inside their persons—almost a divine power to love like God.

## Ascension Day

*The Feast of the Ascension* is one of the primary feasts of the church year and occurs this year on May 21<sup>st</sup>. It invariably falls 40 days after Easter and commemorates Jesus’ return to Heaven at the end of his earthly ministry. Several years ago the Anglican Digest quoted from a remarkable sermon given by a 90-year-old priest at the Cathedral of Saint Luke and Saint Paul (Charleston). The African-American priest wept as he preached and stated that this was such a happy day for Jesus. “He stayed with us for thirty years and at the end of his time with us, he suffered the most horrible death to save our souls; and then, at last, he was able to go home. Alleluia!” *And he led them out as far as Bethany, and he lifted up his hands and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into Heaven. And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in*

*the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen* (Luke 24:50-53, KJV).

## Day of Pentecost

*The Day of Pentecost*, also known as *Whitsunday*, occurs 50 days after Easter. It is the *Feast of the Holy Spirit* and is generally considered to be the third highest feast of the church year. Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the Church and is often referred to in theological writings as the “birthday of the Church.” The dramatic writings of the first Pentecost are described in the second chapter of the *Acts of the Apostles*. *When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from Heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested upon each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.* Now there were devout Jews from everywhere in the world living in Jerusalem and each heard the Apostles speaking in his own language. Pentecost is a Holy Day of obligation and we are expected to receive the Blessed Sacrament always on Pentecost when possible. On Pentecost in the Episcopal Church, both men and women, usually wear some article of clothing which is red to pay silent homage to the Holy Spirit who is our Comforter. Many visitors to Trinity through the years have commented on how strongly they have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in our church and we thank God for this grace. This year we observe the *Day of Pentecost* on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Other Special Days

In May we also celebrate Memorial Day (25<sup>th</sup>) and Armed Forces Day (16<sup>th</sup>). These are not feast days of the Church, but are important in the minds of the American people. On Armed Forces Day we honor those currently serving in the US Military and on Memorial Day we remember those who paid the ultimate price in losing the lives in the defense of the Republic. On Veterans Day we honor all persons for their service to protect and preserve our way of life in this the greatest democracy in the history of the world. To all of you who served to protect our freedom in this “land of the free and home of the brave” our deepest gratitude!! May God continue to bless our native land!

## Rogation Sunday

Rogation Sunday, the sixth Sunday after Easter (May 17<sup>th</sup>), is the Sunday next before the three Rogation Days which precede *Ascension Day*. These are days designed for prayer for the years’ crops and solemn preparation by abstinence and fasting for the *Feast of the Ascension*. Farmers often had their crops blessed by a priest at this time. A common feature of Rogation Days in former times was the ceremony of “beating the bounds” in which a procession of parishioners, the priest, the church wardens and acolytes would process around the boundary of the parish and pray for its protection in the forthcoming year. Interested persons may find the prayers for these days in the BCP on pages 207, 258 and 930. Notes on a traditional Rogation Procession may be found in the BOS n page 103.

## Mother’s Day

Mother’s Day is May 10<sup>th</sup>. We wish a happy Mother’s Day to all our dear mothers still with us; and offer our sincere thanksgiving and gratitude for our mothers who now rest peacefully with the Savior. Our thoughts and prayers remain with those people who have just recently lost their mothers in the pandemic. May the peace of the Lord be with them all.

## Habits of Grace

Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, is offering a series of special meditations, “Habits of Grace” to help interested Episcopalians cope during the covid-19 pandemic. As we learn how to adjust our lives given the reality of the coronavirus and the request to do our part to slow its spread by practicing social distancing, we are invited by Bishop Curry to join him each week to take a moment to cultivate a “habit of grace.” A new video meditation will be posted each Monday through May and may be viewed on the official Episcopal Church website and the Episcopal New Service.

## United Thank Offering

The United Thank Offering is a ministry of the Episcopal Church through which individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to pay attention to the good things that happen each day to make their lives meaningful, give thanks to God for these blessings, and make an offering (usually in small change) for each blessing in your UTO Box. UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings and to distribute 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and the Provinces of the Anglican Communion. The ingathering will be on the last Sunday in September when you will bring your UTO Box to the altar to be received. UTO boxes are available at the library table in the chapel. Thank you!

# TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## MAY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Eucharistic Lectionary Year A</b>  <b>Office Lectionary Year 2</b>	<b>All Lessons and Readings from The Revised Common Lectionary</b>	<b>Our Service Books:</b> BCP—Book of Common Prayer BOS—Book of Occasional Services LFF—Lesser Feasts and Fasts			<b>1</b>  <b>The Apostles Saint Philip And Saint James</b> {Altar: Red}	<b>2</b>
<b>3 4<sup>th</sup> Easter</b>  No church service scheduled for this date.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 5<sup>th</sup> Easter</b>  No church service scheduled for this date.  <b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  Armed Forces Day
<b>17 6<sup>th</sup> Easter</b> Rogation Sunday 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am <b>Holy Eucharist</b> 12:00 Noon Vestry Meets	<b>18 Rogation Day</b>	<b>19 Rogation Day</b>	<b>20 Rogation Day</b>  Evening Prayer 6:00 pm	<b>21</b>  <b>The Ascension Our Lord Jesus</b> (Altar: White)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 7<sup>th</sup> Easter</b> 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am <b>Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>25</b>  Memorial Day	<b>26</b>  Augustine of Canterbury, First Archbishop Of Canterbury, 605	<b>27</b>  Evening Prayer 6:00 pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>PENTECOST</b> (Whitsunday) 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am <b>Holy Eucharist</b>						

### May 17, 2020 (Rogation Sunday)

Celebrant: Mother Alice Haynes  
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis  
 Lector: Dick  
 Acolyte: Andrew  
 Altar Guild: Michele  
 Altar Colors: White  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Acts 17:22-31  
 Psalm: 66: 7-18  
 The Epistle: 1 Peter 3:13-22  
 The Gospel: John 14: 15-21

The Vestry will meet for an important meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> following the Eucharist. This will be a "catch up" meeting as we were unable to meet in April.

Evening Prayer Resumes May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Parish House.

### May 24, 2020 (7<sup>th</sup> Easter)

Celebrant: Mother Alice Haynes  
 Eucharistic Minister: Dick  
 Lector: Mary Anne  
 Acolyte: Andrew  
 Altar Guild: Myra  
 Altar Colors: White  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Acts 1:6-24  
 Psalm: 68:1-10, 33-36  
 The Epistle: 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11  
 The Gospel: John 17: 1-11

**Before Mass:**  
 We spend time quietly speaking to God.  
**During Mass:**  
 We listen as God quietly speaks to us.  
**After Mass:**  
 We speak with friends and neighbors.

TRINITY SUNDAY PICNIC, JUNE 7<sup>th</sup>, FOLLOWING MASS. DETAILS IN JUNE

### May 31, 2020 (Pentecost)

Celebrant: Mother Alice Haynes  
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis  
 Lector: Ruth  
 Acolyte: Andrew  
 Altar Guild: Lewis  
 Altar Colors: Red  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Acts 2:1-21  
 Psalm: 104: 25-35, 37  
 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13  
 The Gospel: John 20:19-23

### Happy Birthday

May 05—Jennie  
 May 30—Roger

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10.

## **Trinity Episcopal Church**

P.O. Box 911,200 Church Street  
Abbeville, South Carolina 29620  
www. trinityabbeville.org

### **Our Mission Statement:**

To do the work that Christ has given us to do.

### **Our Bishop**

The Right Reverend W. Andrew Waldo

### **The Vicar:**

The Vicariate is currently vacant.

### **The Vestry:**

Lewis Ashley, Senior Warden  
Hank Baggett, Junior Warden  
Myra Keith  
Betty Tucker  
Mary Anne Campbell  
Dick Haldeman  
Michael Clary

### **Parish Administrator**

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  
Hank Baggett  
Cynthia Jefferies  
Jennie Leverich  
Rob Elsner  
Sam Elsner

### **Altar Guild:**

Michele Wells, Chairman  
Myra Keith  
Ruth Freeman  
Lewis Ashley

### **Lectors (Lay Readers):**

Mary Ann Campbell  
Jennie Leverich  
Dick Haldeman  
Ruth Freeman  
Betty Tucker

### **Acolytes:**

Lewis Ashley  
Andrew Hartsfield

### **Eucharistic Visitors:**

Lewis Ashley  
Hank Baggett  
Cynthia Jefferies  
Jennie Leverich  
Rob Elsner  
Sam Elsner

### **Greeters/Ushers:**

Ilona Anderson  
Hank Baggett

### **Parish Historian**

May Hutchinson

### **Children's Programs**

Jan Haldeman

### **Bulletins, Special Projects:**

John Pullin  
Jennie Leverich

### **Sexton (Buildings & Grounds):**

Buddy Wells

### **Diocesan Convention Delegation:**

Jan Haldeman (Voting)  
Cynthia Jefferies (Voting)  
Lewis Ashley (Alternate)  
Hank Baggett (Alternate)

### **Newsletters:**

Lewis Ashley  
Jennie Leverich

### **Sunday School/Bible Study:**

Hank Baggett

**For all who faithfully support this mission congregation, we give God thanks and Praise.**

### **Lectionary Readings for May 3, 2020**

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm: 23  
Epistle: 1 Peter 2:19-25  
Gospel: John 10:1-10

### **Lectionary Readings for May 10, 2020**

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Acts 7:55-69  
Psalm: 31:1-5, 15-16  
Epistle: 1 Peter 2:2-10  
Gospel: John 14:1-14

### **Please Help**

We suffered a major crash of our computer in March and literally lost years of valuable data that we were not able to retrieve from the old hard drive. We need your help in returning as much information as possible to the new hard drive. We will be sending you a form with your newsletter asking for your mail address, your email address, and birthday for our birthday calendar (month and day only). This will allow us to contact you quickly by email and for persons not using computer, by regular mail. We also need to revise our mailing list for the newsletter. Please bring your form to church on the first Sunday we are back and leave in the basket on the library table. Thank you.

### **Anticipating the Future**

As we continue to look forward to our return to our church, we are especially grateful to all of you for all you do to make Trinity such a special place. It has been a difficult three years and we all are looking forward to being back home with services at the High Altar. We love our regular visitors and invite you to give some serious thought to officially joining our congregation. If interested, Dick, Lewis or Cynthia will be happy to assist you. Also, we need additional Lectors (Readers), Eucharistic Ministers (Chalice Bearers), Acolytes, choir members and others as we will be expanding our services when we return to the big church. If you are called to any of these ministries, we are here to help you.

## **Letters From Our Friends:**

Dear Friends:

I cannot express how much I have missed all of you at church these last months. I just had to write a letter to the editor to let you know. I have been much inspired by the beautiful meditations from the Presiding Bishop on Mondays from the national church. One of his programs in April was based on the old Gospel Hymn, His Eye Is On The Sparrow. It reminded me of some of the wonderful quiet sermons from Mother Alice that often remind us of the closeness of Jesus to our hearts.

Why should I feel discouraged?  
Why should the shadows come?  
Why should my heart feel lonely  
And long for Heaven and Home.

When Jesus is my portion,  
A constant friend is He.

For His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy.

I sing because I'm free.

For His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.

I am old and frail, and may not be here much longer; and am so thankful that He who cares for a tiny bird, also cares for me.

A Trinity Member

Dear Member:

Thank you for your timely reminder that the Divine Presence is always with us. Editor.

Hi Trinity Friends:

On a recent Saturday we rolled up to your church in two buses hoping to enjoy another great visit to Trinity. It has been four years since we were there last, but your church is on our list of favorite places to visit. We usually eat our picnic lunch on your green, enjoy a tour of the church and hear the many interesting stories of your history. Then your organist spends about an hour with us singing our favorite hymns. We are all Baptists, so we had a good laugh when your organist told us that Baptists make great Episcopalians. It appears your restoration is going well and we hope to be back when you are returned to your church. Your warm hospitality to your visitors is generous and real. On our last visit the last hymn we sang was the old Baptist standard *there's a sweet, sweet feeling in this place and I know it is the presence of the Lord*. You have that sweet presence in your church that your visitors recognize as the Holy Spirit. We will follow your progress on your website and be back when the work is done. God bless you all as you continue your labors for His Kingdom.

Reverend Michael Carlton

Dear Pastor:

Thank you. We look forward to your next visit. If you would care to let us know in advance when you are coming, we will be better prepared to receive you. And Baptists do make great Episcopalians!

*He does not come down from Heaven each day to stay in the golden chalice. He comes down to find another Heaven He cherishes infinitely more than the first, the Heaven of our souls, made in His image, living temples of the Most Blessed and Holy Trinity. Saint Therese of Lisieux.*

Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto Thee daily. Psalm 86:3