Restoration Update

Apparently all final bids that will affect the beginning on the stabilization of the bell tower are now completed and approved and actual start dates are being decided. We hope to be able to give you all that information in our November issue. Trinity has also been approved for the Sacred Places grant for $250,000 if the required matching funds can be raised and that campaign is in the planning stage. Mike Bedenbaugh and Bill Fitzpatrick will be guests on October 18th on Dr. Walter Edgar’s Journal, SC Educational Radio at 12:00 noon. They will discuss Trinity as one of South Carolina’s most historic congregations and its restoration progress. We hope to be able to tell you in our next update that the actual work has begun on the bell tower. We still hope to be able to return to the church when the stabilization of the tower is complete. We are most grateful to our many friends everywhere who are working to return our Trinity to its original grandeur.

Send your contributions directly to SCPreservation.org.

Diocesan Convention

The 97th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper SC will sit at Christ Church on November 8th and 9th, hosted by the congregation. The Leadership Day will be on Friday (8th) and will feature a program on Baptismal Living by Ms. Myra B. Gaines, Canon for Youth and Young Adult Ministries in the Diocese of Long Island. This program is highly regarded and reported to be extremely inspirational. This program will begin at 1:00 pm and will be followed by the Leadership Day dinner at 5:00 pm. Interested persons can find full itinerary and registration at the diocesan website. On Saturday, the convention will conduct the business of the diocese to include the adoption of the 2020 Statement of Mission (Budget), the election of new members to the Diocesan Executive Council and other essential boards, committees and commissions of the diocese; vote on resolutions and changes to canons and possibly hear some comments from the Bishop on the state of the diocese. You will be represented at the convention by voting delegates Jennie and Lewis, with Cynthia and Jan as alternates. Your prayers are requested for the convention and the diocese. The convention meets each year on the second weekend in November. We will bring you a convention report in our November issue.

Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals each year has been one of our most popular programs for the whole Abbeville community. The program is done each year on the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. Father Tucker will bless the animals on Sunday, October 6th, at 3:00 pm in the parish garden. We will again use the beautiful service from the Church of England. It is quite a sight to see the garden full of every imaginable size, breed of dog and bird, and we often have visitors who do not have pets, but enjoy seeing the animals present at the event. Most of our visitors at the blessing are from other congregations and are delighted with the opportunity to have their beloved animals receive the blessing of the Church. Light refreshments will follow the service for both human and canine guests. Please make your plans to be with us and bring 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).

House of Bishops

The House of Bishops met in their fall meeting on September 15th through 20th in Minneapolis. All bishops, active and retired, make up the HOB—nearly 300 bishops. The meetings of the bishops are always serious in nature as they, with the guidance of the Presiding Bishop, have to grapple with enumerated difficult issues which will greatly affect the life and mission of our beloved Church. Much of this week is consumed with prayer, Bible study, some quiet meditation, serious discussion and debate, and, of course, the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist. Ok, maybe they have a little fun, too. Also as next year is a Lambeth Conference year, most of these same bishops will be at the world-wide conference that includes all the bishops of the Anglican Communion in London and Canterbury. A bishop in God’s Holy Church is called to be one with the apostles in proclaiming Christ’s Resurrection and interpreting the Gospel, and to testify to Christ’s sovereignty as Lord of lords and King of kings. (BCP, p 517). We thank God for or own Bishop who has always encouraged us to do whatever we can, not only with our lips, but with our lives, to advance the Kingdom.

Happy Birthday

On October 15th, Trinity will reach the ripe old age of 177 years. And what she has accomplished in those 177 years is remarkable. The first worship service took place in the county courthouse in 1842. The old church has had her good times and her bad times, but for the most part Trinity has been a remarkable beacon to the Faith with her doors always open to those who were spiritually weary and sought rest; to those who mourned and longed for some comfort; to those struggling and desiring victory; to those in sin who needed a savior; to those who were strangers and desired fellowship; and to many who hungered and thirsted after righteousness; and to whomever else came—Trinity opened wide her arms and offered welcome in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As members we take great pride in the fact that these doors were always open. May they open again soon. Happy Birthday, Trinity!
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**Happy Birthday**

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Vestry Meets October 13th immediately following the Eucharist.

**YOU ARE INVITED** Join us for Evening Prayer every Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm, Bible Study every Sunday morning at 10:00 am in the parish house and Morning Prayer, Wednesdays 11:00 am, Bowie Chapel, Erskine Theological Seminary, Due West.
Feast Days in October:
Saint Luke
We observe the Feast of Saint Luke the Evangelist on October 18th. The inspired author of the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, Luke was a native of Antioch in Syria, a physician, and one of the early converts to Christianity. He was with Saint Paul on a number of his missionary journeys. He was also Saint Paul’s companion while he was in prison in Rome on two occasions. Luke’s account of these events, which is contained in the Acts of the Apostles, is first hand history. Luke’s Gospel is above all the story of the merciful heart of Jesus. It emphasizes that Jesus is the salvation of all men, especially the repentant sinner and of the lowly. Luke was converted by Saint Paul. Luke’s Gospel presents some of Jesus’ most moving parables to those of the “Lost Sheep” and the “Prodigal Son.” It was also Luke who tells us most of what we know about the childhood of Jesus. Luke did not personally know Jesus; and like Saint Mark, was not included among the Apostles. Saint Luke died in Achaia (Greece) at the age of 84 years. His name means “bringer of light.”

Saint James
On October 23rd, we observe the Feast of Saint James, Brother of Our Lord Jesus Christ and Martyr. James was thought to be the brother of Jesus and the author of the epistle which bear his name. He was not a believer until after the Resurrection of Jesus. But once he embraced the faith, he was a bold witness of the Gospel and a faithful leader of the early Church, staying at Jerusalem to minister to his flock at a time of intense persecution when the other Apostles had left the city. Saint James presided over the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15) in which a major dispute between the Jewish and Gentile Christians was settled. Saint James was widely known as a man of prayer. His piety and strict adherence to the law of God won him the respect of both Jews and Christians and he was widely known as James the Righteous. In 62 AD, the temple leaders began to fear the spread of Christianity due to Saint James’ influence, and they began to plan a scheme to kill him. Although admonished by the High Priest, he continued to preach the Gospel, encouraged by a shower of “Hosannas” from the Christians in the crowd. Angered by his persistence, the priests and scribes took James to the top of the temple and cast him down into the ground. He survived the fall, but as he began to pray for his persecutors, some of the members of the mob beat him until he was dead. Eight years later, when the temple was destroyed by the Romans, 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
We observe the Feast of Saint Simon and Saint Jude on October 28th. Saint Simon is listed on all four lists of the Apostles. On two of the lists he is referred to as “Zealot.” The Zealots believed that the messianic promise of the Old Testament means that Jews were to be a free and independent nation. God alone, was their king; and any payment of taxes to the Romans was a blasphemy against God. The Zealots were chiefly responsible for the rebellion against Rome which ended with the complete destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. Saint Jude was referred to by Saint Luke in the Acts of the Apostles. Saint Matthew and Saint Mark called him Thaddeus. He is not mentioned elsewhere in the Gospels, except when all the Apostles are named. Biblical scholars hold that he is not the author of the Letter of Jude

Saint Francis of Assisi
On October 4th, we observe the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. He was a Catholic friar and preacher who founded the men’s Franciscan Order, the women’s Order of Saint Clare (Ordo Sanctae Clarae) and the Lay Third Order of Saint Francis. Francis was never ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests, but came to be one of the most venerated religious figures of all time. Francis is probably remembered mostly for his love and protection of animals and is often pictured with an animal in his arms. Francis came from a wealthy Italian family and enjoyed many advantages when he was growing up. As a young adult, he lived very much in the “fast lane” and enjoyed a busy life of wine, women and song; but following a life changing experience with Jesus, he spent the remainder of his life in the active propagation of the Gospel. He is also credited with one of the most often quoted prayers in all Christendom.

License Renewals
On Saturday, October 26th, we will be conducting our training classes for the renewal of licenses for Worship Leader and Eucharistic Visitor. The Worship Leader training will begin at 9:00 am and will conclude about noon. The class for Eucharistic Visitor will begin at 1:00 pm and will conclude about 3:00 pm. For persons renewing both licenses, a light lunch will be provided at noon. Worship Leaders are persons licensed to conduct any of the Holy Offices from the BCP except those which must be done only by a priest. Eucharistic Visitors are licensed to carry the Blessed Sacrament to persons no longer able to attend Mass. These people carry Communion to hospitals, nursing homes, hospice and private homes. We need additional people to serve in both of these capacities in our diocese and it is a wonderful way to serve God in your church. Let Cynthia or Lewis know if you wish to take this training. These ministries are licensed by the Diocese and the licenses are usually good for five years.

Cursillo Weekend Coming Soon
Have you ever wondered, “What is my purpose in life?” “Why am I here?” “Does God have a plan for me?” “Are faith and belief the same thing?” If you have thoughts of these types of feelings or similar ones, you might consider attending a Cursillo weekend. The weekend runs from Thursday afternoon to Sunday afternoon. The next weekend is October 17-20 at the Bishop Gravatt Conference Center. Cursillo is a ministry of the Episcopal Church with the support of our Bishop. The weekend has fifteen talks, over three days, given by lay persons and clergy, then discussed in small groups. It provides an opportunity to deepen your faith and experience the love of God within a supportive and prayerful community. Cursillo is also a method of maintaining a personal relationship with Christ and the means to further enhance, support and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our environments. For more information, contact EDUSC Cursillo Council President Janet Jendron at 803-446-2566 or by email at jejjendronjanet@gmail.com or Council Spiritual Director, Father Mike Flanagan at mf@mchsi.net

The Gravatt Conference Center is another name for our summer camp which is in the deep woods and famous for its beautiful setting and great food. Many Episcopalians have testified that Cursillo changed their lives. It just might be a weekend to remember.
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 Vicarate is currently vacant.

The Vestry:
Cynthia Jefferies, Senior Warden
Andrew Hartsfield
Myra Keith
Betty Tucker
Mary Anne Campbell
Dick Haldeman
Lewis Ashley

Parish Administrator:
Dick Haldeman

Treasurer:
Lewis Ashley

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

Eucharistic Ministers:
Dick Haldeman
Lewis Ashley
Ruth Freeman

Worship Leaders:
Dick Haldeman
Lewis Ashley
John Pullin

Altar Guild:
Michele Wells, Chairman
Myra Keith
Ruth Freeman
Lewis Ashley

Lectors/Lay Readers:
Mary Anne Campbell
Jennie Leverich
Dick Haldeman
Ruth Freeman

Acolytes:
Lewis Ashley
Andrew Hartsfield

Eucharistic Visitors:
Lewis Ashley
John Pullin

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:
Jennie Leverich (Voting)
Lewis Ashley (Voting)
Cynthia Jefferies (Alternate)
Jan Haldeman (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.

Paint Trinity Church
What fun! The Abbeville Artist Guild and Divine Your Space are teaming up to paint Trinity Church and auction off the paintings. The event will be held Saturday, October 19th beginning at 10 AM. The guild members and guests will be set up in front of Devine Your Space on the corner of Trinity Street, just across from Trinity, to paint their own interpretation of the church. Anyone is welcome to join and donate their work to the restoration and saving of this historic landmark. We hope to see all mediums including acrylics, sketches and watercolor of the beautiful church. Silent bids of the work will begin on the 19th and run through December 14th. 100% of the proceeds from the paintings will be donated to Trinity. You will be able to bid on the paintings at Devine Your Space. If you are interested in participating please reach out to the Abbeville Artist Guild (abbevilleartistsguild@gmail.com) or Devine Your Space (info @divineyoursepace.com). Trinity is one of the most photographed and painted churches in South Carolina and when open is the most visited church in the diocese other than the cathedral. Trinity was open daily for prayer and meditation for almost 100 years and on her 150th anniversary Mass enjoyed over three hundred visitors from all over the US.

LETTERS:
Dear Editor:
Two years ago I was removed from the Sacrament and the many graces of my Catholic Church due to a relationship which my priest said was sinful and not acceptable to God. I was told that God could not love me in this sin and if I died I would go straight to hell. My friend and I always enjoyed dropping in to Trinity to sign up for prayer requests in the narthex and maybe light a candle, say a prayer and listen to the music. We felt we always benefited from your prayers. I have been diagnosed with a condition that could be life threatening and would appreciate your prayers, but can no longer get into the church to sign-up. Hope you don’t mind us leaving the request attached to the door. I think we met one Saturday afternoon when you played for Michael when he sang Ave Maria. He was a voice major. Thank you. Dominic

Dear Dominic:
We will pray for you and Michael. Your names will be called in the Prayers of the People. It is extremely important that you understand that there is no power in Heaven, on earth, in hell or in the Catholic Church that can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus!! (Romans 8:38-39). You are welcome and invited to receive the Blessed Sacrament in the Episcopal Church. Since you bear the name of a great saint and your friend the name of the great Archangel, you know, as a Catholic, that you may ask Saint Dominic and Saint Michael to pray for you. While you are ill, say your Rosary every day. God Bless.

Dear Trinity:
When we lived in Abbeville, my brother and I often found our way into Trinity on Saturday afternoons because we liked the music and all the stuff that was going on there. When we showed up with our violins, the organist always asked us to play for the visitors and taught us a lot about music. He called us his red violins, not because our violins were red, but because we both had bright red hair. I was 16 and my brother was 14. When he decided that we were serious about music, he asked the church violinist, Miss Susan, to give us a one hour lesson each Saturday in the parish house where we learned fingerling and bow manipulation. We had no money, so our lessons were free. We wanted to play music in a country music band. The organist told us that was ok, but we could pay for our lessons by playing music for Jesus at every opportunity and we have done that. The organist also wanted to make altar boys out of us, but our parents would not allow it because they thought the Episcopal Church was too “catholic.” Miss Susan was a good teacher and a dear lady. We found your newsletter on the website and could not resist writing. We now make a good living with our country music band in and around Nashville. We end all our shows with a hymn, so I guess we are still paying for our lessons. I think I must have played Amazing Grace ten thousand times. We will send a donation to the restoration. We have wonderful memories of Abbeville and Saturday afternoons at Trinity.

Dear “Red Violins”:
We are very happy for your success and very proud of you! Your dear Miss Susan is now with Jesus. Please come and play for us when you can and always continue to play for Jesus. God Bless.
The Editor.