Restoration Update

We are happy to be able to continue to report progress in the restoration of our church. Mike Bedenbaugh, Executive Director of Preservation South Carolina announced in an address to the Abbeville Rotarian group that he hopes that scaffolding will go up around the bell tower in April and that actual work may begin in June. The roof also needs considerable attention as the frequent and heavy spring rains have brought more water intrusion into the nave and sanctuary. Interestingly, all the brick for the church was made in the churchyard and contained a lot of lime which was the custom in the 1800s. The lime requires that the bricks must maintain the ability to “breathe” to extrude water and moisture. The portland cement which was added to the church in later years prevented the ability of original brick to breathe and the water leaked inward rather than outward. You are aware that for the past 20 years Trinity has presented numerous concerts and other special events for the Abbeville area and the majority of persons attending these events are not members of our parish. We are proud to provide this community outreach and these programs are offered at no charge. So please help us to encourage our friends in the community to contribute whatever they can to this restoration effort. We will keep you posted.

House of Bishops

Bishop Waldo attended the spring meeting of the House of Bishops from March 12th -15th at the Episcopal Conference Center at Kanuga in the North Carolina mountains. These meetings are often casual and provide the bishops the opportunity to discuss important matters of the church in an informal setting. Usually these sessions are closed, but daily briefings were provided by various members of the HOB. This year has presented many areas of concern for the bishops and has increased their determination for the Episcopal Church to do whatever it can to promote healing and reconciliation in a very troubled world. This spring meeting of the bishops followed its usual emphasis on prayer, the Holy Eucharist, Bible study and deliberations regarding the development of policies for the spiritual and healthy development of the Church. All bishops in the Episcopal Church (active and retired) make up the House of Bishops (nearly 300 members). Our bishops are called to protect and preserve the Faith, Unity and Discipline of the Church and to provide for the orderly administration of the Holy Sacraments and other Holy Offices of the New Covenant; to ordain priests and deacons and to join in the consecration of new bishops; and to be in all things a faithful pastor and wholesome example for the entire flock of Christ.

Here We Go Again

The Archbishop of Canterbury and his staff are preparing for the worldwide Lambeth Conference of Bishops which will include all active bishops in the Anglican Communion and their spouses. But the Archbishop has recently announced that due to a prevailing Lambeth resolution that he will be unable to invite the companions of bishops in same-sex unions. You guessed it. It appears that the decision will affect only bishops in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada. The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church has asked the bishops and their spouses and the House of Bishops “to prayerfully and carefully consider her/his/their response, choices and actions” in the light of what it calls these “troubling circumstances” of this decision. The Archbishop’s decision affects at least two bishops and one bishop-elect who are publicly known to have same sex spouses—a suffragan bishop in the Diocese of New York, a suffragan in the Diocese of Toronto and the new bishop-elect of Maine who will be consecrated in June. This decision has caused considerable concern in North America with public expressions of regret from the Primates of Canada and the US. The Lambeth Conference of Bishops meets approximately every ten years traditionally at Canterbury Cathedral (the Mother Church of the worldwide Anglican Communion) with its conference sessions at the University of Kent. The Archbishop of Canterbury is traditionally considered to be the “spiritual head” of the Anglican Communion. The Episcopal Church is considered to be the “official” Anglican Communion in the US. The meeting will be in August 2020.

All 34, Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

This is the greeting that we use to begin our worship every Sunday, and indeed, everyday in the Easter Season. This call is taken from the Gospel of Luke (Chapter 24). The scene is the end of Jesus’ appearance to some of his 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 that the Lord has risen indeed and has appeared to Simon (34). This well known Easter acclamation is now repeated throughout all Christendom. This important call and response is a joyful reminder to us all of Christ’s victory over death and the grave—a call of resurrection after the tomb! These are the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets and in the Psalms concerning me (44). Thus it is written, and it thus behove Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day (46). I know that my Redeemer lives and because he lives, I too shall live (G.F. Handel, The Messiah). The Lord is risen, indeed. Alleluia!
Feast Days in April: Saint Mark
On April 29th, 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 good historical evidence that Mark was at the wedding of 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 traveled with Barnabas and Paul 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 and this is the position of the Anglican Church. The Mark Gospel narrates the life and ministry Jesus beginning with his meeting with John the Baptist and continuing to the crucifixion and Ascension. Mark did not witness most of the events detailed in his Gospel, but as a follower of Peter, he documented what Peter described to him. Saint Mark is often 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.

Holy Week
Holy Week will begin on Palm Sunday and recalls the events of our Lord’s final days before his sacrifice on the cross. It is a time for most solemn preparation for his triumph through his suffering, death and Resurrection. It has been our custom to observe all the traditional services of Holy Week, but unfortunately, we will be unable to do so this year as we do not have access to the church. We will omit our very popular service of the Stations of the Cross always done at noon on Good Friday. Persons wishing to attend a service of the Stations of the Cross may do so on the Fridays of April at the Sacred Heart. Persons wishing to attend the Great Vigil of Easter may do so at the Church of the Resurrection on the evening of Holy Saturday. When we had a vicar, we were frequently invited to participate in this joint service with Resurrection and Immanuel Lutheran. We hope to be able to resume our full Easter schedule next year.

Palm Sunday
Palm Sunday (the Sunday of the Passion) is the sixth Sunday in Lent and the first day of Holy Week (April 14th). Palm branches and fronds are used to decorate the High Altar and small palm crosses are given to all members of the congregation as they enter the church. These palm implements remind us of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem when people bearing palm branches accompanied his triumphant procession. Remember that your palm crosses have been blessed by the priest and should never be disposed of in a trash can. Many people like to use them as bookmarks in their Bible or Prayer Book. If you do not wish to keep your cross, you may place it in the basket provided where they will be collected and burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday. The Palm Sunday service will begin in the garden with the Liturgy of the Palms (Mark 11:1-11 and Psalm 118). Following the lessons, we will receive our palm crosses and process into the parish hall singing the principal hymn for Palm Sunday—All Glory, Laud and Honor to Thee Redeemer King, Hymn #154.

Holy Wednesday—Tenebrae
The word Tenebrae comes from the Latin and means shadows or darkness. We will observe Tenebrae this year on the Wednesday of Holy Week at 6:00 pm. The readings are somber and from the Passion Gospel and this year’s reflections will be on the seven last words of Christ from the cross. The organist will softly play one of the well known hymns of the cross following each reading to allow for a brief time of personal meditation. The altar will be lit by candles which are extinguished one by one after each reading. The final candle is removed and the room is left in darkness, which reminds us that the world was left in darkness while Jesus was in the tomb. In the darkness we hear depicted the fierce thunder that occurred when the veil was rent in the temple in Jerusalem. The lone candle then returns symbolizing that Christ is again with us and will remain with us forever. At the end of the service the people depart in complete silence. Please join us.

Maundy Thursday
The word Maundy comes from the Latin maundare, which means to command. It refers to the two commandments given by Jesus on the first Maundy Thursday: Do this in remembrance of me and love one another as I have loved you.

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of our Lord at which time he instituted the Holy Eucharist, the principal Holy Office of the Episcopal Church. The Holy Eucharist is always celebrated on Maundy Thursday (6:00 pm, parish house). Following the Mass on this evening, the Blessed Sacrament which has not been consumed, will remain on the altar (which has now become the Altar of Repose) for quiet adoration and thanksgiving for the Redeeming Blood of the Savior. You can join the Night Watch by dedicating an hour of your time for meditation and prayer following the Maundy Thursday Mass (…what, could ye not watch with me for one hour? Matthew 26:40). On Good Friday, the Altar of Repose will remain available for private devotions until the evening Liturgy.

Good Friday
Good Friday is the most solemn and somber Fast of the church year—a day for most serious reflection and contemplation. It is the day which commemorates the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. Because of the nature of the day, there is no consecration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Anglican Church on Good Friday. Father Tucker will conduct the Liturgy for Good Friday at 6:00 pm in the parish house. When we are in the church, we always observe the Watch by the Cross following the Stations of the Cross until 3:00 pm. We will omit that observance until we are able to return to the sanctuary.

Easter and Eastertide
On the third Sunday in April (21st), we celebrate the highest feast of the Christian Church—the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Easter Day must be honored with the most beautiful setting which can be provided. The date of Easter is movable coming on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox; the date of Easter controls the Christian year beginning with Septuagesima and continuing to Trinti- tide. The High Easter Mass at Trinity has long been a beautiful event and has often attracted many visitors. Although we will be in the parish house this year, we will endeavor to make the Mass as memorable as possible. We will be continuing as many of our usual customs as possible including the special blessing of incense and the Asperges.

Private Confession
Persons wishing to make a private confession during Holy Week will be accommodated. To protect your privacy, please make your own appointment with the priest. For procedure see Reconciliation of a Penitent, BCP, pp. 447-452.
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A bright new sun rose over an empty tomb and the world was forever changed, Alleluia!

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**April 7, 2019 (Palm Sunday)**

Celebrant: The Rev. Rilla Holmes  
Eucharistic Minister: Dick  
Lector: Mary Anne  
Acolyte: Andrew  
Altar Guild: Myra  
Altar Colors: Violet  
1st Lesson: Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalm: 126 In convertendo  
The Epistle: Philippians 3:4-8  
The Gospel: John 12:1-8

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**April 14, 2019 (Palm Sunday)**

Celebrant: The Rev. Rilla Holmes  
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis  
Lector: Dick  
Acolytes: Andrew  
Altar Guild: Lewis  
Altar Colors: Red  
1st Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9  
Psalm: 31:9-16 In te, Domine, speravi  
The Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11  

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**April 21, 2019 (Easter Sunday)**

Celebrant: The Rev. Rilla Holmes  
Eucharistic Minister: Dick  
Lector: Ruth  
Acolyte: Andrew, Lewis  
Altar Guild: Michele  
Altar Colors: White  
1st Lesson: Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm: 118:1-2, 14-24 Confiemini  
The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26  
The Gospel: John 20:1-18

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**April 28, 2019 (2nd Sunday Easter)**

Celebrant: The Rev. Alice Haynes  
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis  
Lector: Betty  
Acolytes: Andrew  
Altar Guild: Michele  
Altar Colors: White  
1st Lesson: Acts 5:27-32  
Psalm: 118:14-29 Confiemini Domine  
2nd Lesson: Revelation 1:4-8  
The Gospel: John 20:19-31

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**April 7, 2019 (Palm Sunday)**

Celebrant: The Rev. Rilla Holmes  
Eucharistic Minister: Dick  
Lector: Mary Anne  
Acolyte: Andrew  
Altar Guild: Myra  
Altar Colors: Violet  
1st Lesson: Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalm: 126 In convertendo  
The Epistle: Philippians 3:4-8  
The Gospel: John 12:1-8

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**April 14, 2019 (Palm Sunday)**

Celebrant: The Rev. Rilla Holmes  
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis  
Lector: Dick  
Acolytes: Andrew  
Altar Guild: Lewis  
Altar Colors: Red  
1st Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm: 31:9-16 In te, Domine, speravi  
The Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11  

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**Happy Birthday**

04/05—May  
04/15—Ilena  
04/18—Jim  
04/24—Sam

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You can help spread the word. Tell your friends to make their gifts to Trinity's restoration to Preservation South Carolina's website at preservationsc.org. Let's get this job done! Thank you!

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It is respectfully requested that all conversation cease after the High Altar has been lit for the Mass. This is a good time for personal meditation. But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him. Habakkuk 2:20.

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...why seek ye the living among the dead?  
He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.  
Luke 24:5-7 KJV.
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 Jefferyes (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.

Intercessory Prayer List
Each issue of our newsletter will include a list for intercessory prayer to include all our members and friends of this parish. Some are sick and some are well. We simply request that in your personal prayers and special intentions that you will lift these friends up unto the Lord who will know specifically what their needs are. When we have been through our entire list of members and friends, we will begin over again. Please feel free to advise us of any person not a member of this parish who you might wish to be on this list. Thank you!

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

Lectors (Lay Readers):
Joy Bolen
Mary Anne Campbell
Jennie Leverich
Betsy Tucker
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

Trinity Episcopal Church
Post Office 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 Jefferyes, Senior Warden
Andrew Hartsfield
Myra Keith
Betsy 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
Joy Bolen

Worship Leaders:
Dick Haldeman
Joy Bolen
Lewis Ashley
John Pullin

Intercessory Prayer List
Please remember the following persons in your prayers during the month of April.

John
Elizabeth
Jonathan
Mike
Hank
Bud
Michele
Bob

Thank You, Jesus
It is probably appropriate to reflect during Easteride on those many people who have reported special blessings and graces received in their lives from their association with Trinity in its almost two hundred years of ministry. We have received numerous letters and have many reports of these special blessings. For its entire history, Trinity has been a beacon of the Faith to those thousands of people who have been casually walking down Trinity Street and have not been able to resist entering the church for a quiet time of reflection and prayer. There have been many young brides who have no connection to Abbeville or the Episcopal Church, but just had to have their wedding in our church. Over the years we have received literally thousands of visitors on Saturday afternoons who have come to say a prayer, light a candle, sing a favorite hymn, or just sit and watch the sun play in the stained glass. It is an adventure in itself just to read through Trinity’s guest register and see many entries like the lady from London who wrote: “I have been looking for something for a long time and found it today in this beautiful and quiet place. Thank you,” or the teen who simply wrote “Kool!” The Lord God has always worked in mysterious ways his wonders to perform and we are so pleased that it has pleased Him to use Trinity in some of his many blessings to his people. We have recently received the following email which speaks for itself. It is just another example of how people have found solace and hope at Trinity in times of trouble and despair in their personal lives.

Dear Trinity Friends:
Several years ago, my father, a presbyter in the Church of Scotland, spent a sabbatical year in Greenville preaching and leading seminars in centered prayer. My mother had died the year before and he did not want to be away from me for a year, so he brought me with him to beautiful South Carolina. At this time in my life I was troubled, agnostic and angry at God for taking my mother. My father was scheduled to preach in a large church in Abbeville and we came over on a Saturday afternoon. Some kind of spring festival was going on and the town was full of people. When my father looked down Trinity Street and saw Trinity Church he was intrigued and we walked down to see the church. When we entered the church was full of visitors, and was beautiful, adorned in spring flowers and the altar in the Lady Chapel was aglow in candlelight from where people had said their prayers. The organ and the violin were playing softly and a young priest was singing the beautiful musical of the 84th psalm: “How lovely is thy dwelling place.” When the musicians took a break, the organist and the violin lady walked around greeting the visitors and finally came over to greet me. They were very caring people and made me feel comfortable. When the priest joined us in the conversation continued and the violin lady asked if they could pray for me. She was clearly concerned as she had perceived my troubled spirit. Her prayer was powerful and the Holy Spirit hit me like a bolt of lightning and raised me to an unimaginable state of joy, peace and reconciliation. May Christ be praised! We returned to Scotland at the end of the year and after considerable contemplation and prayer, I was accepted into the Anglican seminary and am now a priest and vicar of a small parish in Aberdeen. I am anxious to visit Trinity again one day with my wife and daughter. I read your newsletter for years and am so glad it is back on the website. I have prayed often for Trinity’s complete restoration. I left Trinity that day with the joy of the Lord in my heart. I remember that the last thing I saw upon leaving the church was the wonderful picture of the Redeemer in the stained glass above the High Altar and thinking “how lovely is thy dwelling place.”

Ian Fraser
Aberdeen, Scotland

Dear Father:
May Christ be praised! We thank God for you, your ministry, and that it pleased Him to give you a special blessing at Trinity. We look forward to your visit. That lovely violin lady (Susan) who prayed for you is now with the Savior. Dominus Volobium. Editor.