The Trinitarian

News, Notes and Inspiration from Trinity Church Oxford

Spring 2017

In This Issue
From the Rector
Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Sunday
Annual Meeting
Baptisms
Cemetery Desecration
Christmas Pageant
Christmas at Trinity
Girls Friendly Society
Greening of the Church
History at Trinity
Lenten Preparations
Mardi Gras
Memorials
Music Ministry

From the Rector
At first glance, the beginning of this year has been one of false-starts. Just look at our weather in the northeast—bounding from balmy to blizzard, neither people nor plants can tell which end is up. Perhaps you have had the challenge of seemingly false-starts in your personal or professional life, as well. We all have hopes and dreams for our lives. I know that I have heard myself saying, "If only I can get to ____, everything will be great!" "If only" sometimes comes to pass, sometimes it doesn't. When it does, we often realize that it wasn't the panacea we had hoped for. When it doesn't, the disappointment and haunting "what if's" can be a real drain on the soul. When this happens, it is a sign that we are living too much unto our own wills, and not discerning that of God. Certainly, free will and the creative drive in all of us are gifts from God, but like all his other gifts, it is in returning them to Him that we find our true joy.

"God has a plan for you." Truer and more frustrating words have rarely been spoken. We all want the best for the world, our church, our families, and ourselves. And though we have agency, or the ability to act and effect change, action without God's direction is like a ship without a pilot.

Lent is the time of year when we pay special attention to our mortality, sinfulness, and need for God's grace in our lives. Consider Jesus in the garden: "If it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done." Even our Lord struggled with accepting God's will and plan for him, but because he did, we not only have Lent, but also Easter. Let us use the remaining weeks of Lent and Holy Week to pray in the garden of Gethsemane that is in each of our hearts. Look back at the year that has passed and find those places where God's will was done in your life. Look ahead as well and have faith. Engage with God through prayer, reading of holy scripture, and the partaking of the sacraments of His Church. Ask and work for the wisdom and grace to open your heart and mind to His will. And finally, remember the words of St. Paul, "Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine." (Eph. 3:20)

Blessings,
Father Richard

Sign up online for our free monthly email newsletter

Our Staff
The Rev. Richard Robyn, Rector
The Rev. Don Graff, Priest Associate
Mary Sampson, M.A., Organist/Choirmaster
Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday
Holy Week commemorates the last week of the earthly life of Jesus as recorded in the Canonical gospels. It begins with Palm Sunday, April 9, where at both the 8am and 10am Mass, we will remember the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as well as the agony of the Passion that he was about to endure. The 10am service will feature the Bell Choir, a traditional procession, and the reading of the Passion by members of the congregation. Please visit our Facebook page for pictures of last year's service.

Monday thru Wednesday
A simple Mass will be said daily in the church - at 10am on Monday, April 10; at 7pm on Tuesday, April 11; and at 10am on Wednesday, April 12. Also, at 11:30am on Tuesday, April 11, Father Richard will be participating in a renewal of ordination vows led by Bishop Gutierrez, at the Philadelphia Cathedral - all are welcome to attend.

Maundy Thursday
On Maundy Thursday, April 13, at 7pm, we will commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus Christ in which he instituted the Holy Eucharist. After communion, the altar will be stripped by the acolytes and ceremonially washed to represent the tomb that will receive Christ's body on Good Friday. The reserved Sacrament will then be taken in procession to the Altar of Repose in the Buchanan Building, which will represent the Garden of Gethsemene, where Jesus asked his disciples "Could you not wait with me one hour?" The Buchanan Building will remain open until 9pm for silent prayer and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament.

Good Friday
Good Friday is the day we observe the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. In order to accommodate people's busy schedules, our Tenebrae service will begin at 7pm on Friday, April 14, and will feature a special musical offering by the Senior Choir.

The Good Friday Offering has been a source of support, love and hope for the people of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East since 1922. The National Church offers the opportunity to give our thanks and commitment to the church of Jerusalem as they continue to work toward justice, reconciliation and peace. Through our support of these churches we are helping to realize God's vision of peace throughout this
Easter Sunday
There will be two festive masses on Easter Sunday, April 16. The 8am mass will be a simple, yet joyful, spoken service. The 10am mass will include special music and feature a Brass Ensemble along with our Senior Choir. Following the 10am service, we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard for children of all ages. Bring your own basket or we can provide you with a bag - remember to check your eggs for slips that let you know you can collect a prize! Visit our Facebook page for pictures of last year's festivities. Please invite a friend or neighbor to attend - everyone is welcome at Trinity, especially to share in the joy of Easter Sunday!

In Other News...

Annual Meeting
Our Annual Parish Meeting is coming up on April 23, the first Sunday after Easter, as is customary. At the meeting, we will be electing Vestry persons to serve, delegates to Diocesan Convention in November, and Pennypack Deanery Delegates. Vestry members must be confirmed Episcopalians at least 21 years of age who have been members of Trinity Church Oxford for at least two years. They must be regular in attendance at worship and pledge to the work of the church. The Vestry is an important ministry of leadership without which our parish simply could not function. Please prayerfully consider service on the Vestry, and pray for those who currently serve. If you're interested in serving, please see the rector or one of the wardens.

Baptisms
Please join us as we celebrate two baptisms in Easter tide. Michael Patrick Varallo, Jr., son of Michael and Kiersten (McConomy) Varallo, will be baptized on April 23 at the 9am service. Ellie Rey Prete, daughter of Michael and Kaitlyn (Geliebter) Prete, will be baptized on May 7 at the 10am service.
Episcopal Visitation
Sunday, June 18

Cemetery Desecration
A historic Jewish cemetery in Northeast Philadelphia was desecrated recently by vandals, drawing national attention. Fr Robyn joined Rep Jared Solomon and other civic and religious leaders at a press conference at the cemetery to show the unity of all people of goodwill in standing against this act. Trinity Church Oxford stands with our Jewish brothers and sisters at this difficult time.

Christmas Pageant
What a joy it was to see our youngest members share the story of Christmas on December 11! Each letter of the alphabet represented one part of the story of Christ's birth. Trinity has a history of innovation when it comes to Christmas pageants, and this one was no exception. Thanks to everyone who helped make it possible! Please visit our Facebook page for photos from this event.

Christmas at Trinity
For more than 300 years, people have celebrated Christmas in our historic church. In 2016, parishioners and friends of Trinity welcomed the Christ Child again surrounded by candlelight on Christmas Eve. At the early service, the bell choir rang beautifully. Before the more traditional "Midnight Mass", our organist and senior choir presented a beautiful concert of Christmas music which set the tone for the service. Please visit our Facebook page for pictures of this event.

Girls Friendly Society
Many thanks to Trinity's GFS group who helped make activity bags for patients at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia on March 4. Please visit our Facebook page for photos of this event.
Greening of the Church
After a wonderful Lessons & Carols service on December 18, 2016, parishioners stayed to help with the greening of the church for Christmas. Thanks to everyone who helped set up the candles, crèche, flowers, tree and greenery -- the church looks beautiful! Please visit our Facebook page for photos of this event.

History at Trinity
The history of Trinity is stunning. I have always taken it for granted having known it my entire life. This changed since being appointed Chairperson of the Historical Committee. Most items had long been stored in the basement of the Jansen Building. Vacating that building has caused us to take stock of our treasure.

We recently were visited by Cary Hutto of the Pennsylvania Historical Society. She surveyed our collection and made recommendations. Overall, she found most to be in good condition for their age. The suggestions were mainly on handling and storing the items. We can arrange to store our collection at PHS in the future, when we get to that point.

Please see our Facebook post to read more about our history. Ginny McCracken, Chair, Historical Committee

Lenten Preparations
Trinity parishioners are preparing for Easter in many ways, from prayer and fasting, to alms giving and penitence. We have attended Wednesday masses and Lenten quiet days, and learned about our history by watching The King's Highway. Please watch online our Bishop's Lenten message and join us for the celebration of our Lord's resurrection at Easter.

Mardi Gras
On Sunday, February 26, we celebrated Mardi Gras with festive music, decorations and New Orleans-style food in the Buchanan Building. Many thanks to the folks who helped prepare the meal and the festive décor. Laissez les bons-temps rouler! Please visit our Facebook page to see photos of this event.
Memorials
Many thanks to everyone who gave so generously for the flowers and music at Christmas. If you would like to contribute to the beautiful music and flowers that fill our church at Easter, envelopes are available in the church or you may send a check to the office no later than Palm Sunday. Please be sure to note the loved one in whose memory or thanksgiving the donation is given.

Music Ministry
After glorious musical performances during Advent and Christmas, our choirs are well on their way to preparing for Holy Week and the Easter season. Many weeks of rehearsals and planning go into the liturgies. Our Senior Choir continues to rehearse on Sunday mornings, preparing beautiful music for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, with special offerings for Easter Sunday accompanied by our brass ensemble.

We have moved Bell Choir rehearsals to Sundays after the 10am service to make it more convenient for our ringers to participate. The bell choir will ring on Palm Sunday, as well as Choir Recognition Sunday on May 7. We can always use more ringers and singers, please just let me know if you're interested. We are grateful to all of our choir members who give of their time and dedication to our music ministry! Soli deo gloria! Mary Sampson, Organist/Choirmaster

Schedule of Events

Every Sunday, Mass at 8am (spoken) and 10am (with music and Sunday School, followed by coffee hour in the Buchanan Building)

Every Sunday, Senior Choir Rehearsal at 8:45am in the Buchanan Building; Bell Choir Rehearsal after the 10am service in the Church

Monday, March 20, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Conference Room

Wednesday, March 22, Mass at 10am in the Church

Saturday, March 25, 9am to 3:30pm, Lenten Quiet Day at the Church of the Good Samaritan in Paoli

Sunday, March 26, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 26, Vestry Meeting after coffee hour in the Conference Room

Wednesday, March 29, Diocesan Communications Conference from 8:30am to 1pm at Cathedral Village

Sunday, April 2, Fifth Sunday in Lent

Monday, April 3, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Conference Room

Wednesday, April 5, Mass at 10am in the Church

Palm Sunday, April 9, Mass at 8am (spoken) and 10am (with bell choir and procession)
Monday, April 10, Mass at 10am in the Church

Tuesday, April 11, Renewal of Vows and Blessing of Oils at 11:30am in the Philadelphia Cathedral

Tuesday, April 11, Mass at 7pm in the Church

Wednesday, April 12, Mass at 10am in the Church

Maundy Thursday, April 13, liturgy at 7pm in the Church followed by solemn stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 14, service of Tenebrae at 7pm in the Church

Easter Sunday, April 16, Mass (spoken) at 8am, Mass (with special music) at 10am followed by Easter egg hunt in the churchyard

Monday, April 17, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Conference Room

Sunday, April 23, Annual Meeting with breakfast after ONE MASS AT 9AM

Sunday, April 23, Baptism of Michael Patrick Varallo, Jr. at the 9am service

Monday, May 1, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Conference Room

Sunday, May 7, Choir Recognition Sunday, during the 10am service

Sunday, May 7, Baptism of Ellie Rey Prete at the 10am service

Monday, May 15, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Conference Room

Pentecost Sunday, June 4

Trinity Sunday, June 11, our Feast of Title

Episcopal Visitation, June 18

Trinity Church Oxford, 601 Longshore Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111