The Trinitarian

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From the Rector
Dear Parishioners and Friends of Trinity,

Eight years ago, and honestly quite to my surprise, I was called to serve as Rector of this church. All I knew of Philadelphia was the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. I had no idea what a huge city it is, and how many different neighborhoods it contains. I certainly had never heard of Lawncrest, or Burholme, or Cheltenham. In all my historical studies, I had never heard of Trinity Church Oxford or about how its history is so deeply entwined with that of our country and Church. Likewise, the people of Trinity must have wondered at this young and inexperienced priest the search committee and vestry had chosen for them. After all, one would have to look back to the 1880s to find another rector of my age at this church.

In all honesty, my first vestry meeting at Trinity was my first vestry meeting—ever. I played it cool and asked the Rector’s Warden to lead the initial meeting in order to get me acquainted with the members. In truth, it was because I hadn’t a clue what to do! There was a lot to learn in those first few years: not only a parish full of people and lives and customs, but also a city and a diocese. To be sure, there were missteps along the way, but mostly God’s grace was present.

The office was always the hub of activity, centering mostly during the week around the printing of the bulletin, which is the eighth sacrament at Trinity. In those days, there was "the duplicator." We would literally cut and paste onto sheets of paper, and then run them off with great clamour. Much excitement ensued when I introduced the office to Google Images, and relegated ye olde duplicator and decades of clip art into the dustbin of history.

From the moment I arrived, every vestry meeting involved at least 20 minutes of discussion on "the day care problem." This problem predated me by at least a decade, but it was getting worse and worse. I don't need to go into the details of the redevelopment, as we have all lived through it, but suffice it to say that years of hard work by dedicated people have gotten us

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Our Staff
The Rev. Richard Robyn, Rector
The Rev. Don Graff, Priest Associate
to the point of having an executed lease. We are hopeful that the rest of the pieces will come into place over the summer and fall, and that our herculean effort will bear much fruit for the good of this church and the community.

The redevelopment has been a focal point, but it is far from being the sum of the work we have done together over these last eight years. We are a strong and vocal presence in our neighborhood and in the diocese. We are growing! We now have two church school teachers to tend to our flock, and new families have joined with long-timers to share in God's love here. We are also increasing in diversity. I think it is wonderful to have our children (and adults) exposed to people who may have come to us from other lands, or who live in a different way, but who share in our discipleship. It has been my joy and privilege to marry you, to baptize your children, to see them confirmed, to discern in one of our members a call to ordained ministry, to minister to the sick, and to be by your side during a loved one's death.

This has been an incredible journey so far, but it doesn't end here. You have an empowered and capable vestry, and the support of our diocesan leaders. Trinity is poised for a promising future of growth and discipleship in its fourth century. I am honored to have been here at this time of transition, when the pages of our history were turned from one chapter to the next. Lord, thou hast been our refuge, from one generation to another.

Thank you, and thanks be to God for this opportunity to serve with you in this incredible place.

Fr Richard

New Call for Father Richard

During a special meeting of the Vestry on Wednesday, June 21, Father Robyn tendered his resignation and it was reluctantly accepted. On June 25, he shared this news with the parish, and letters from Father Robyn and Lorie Henry, Rector's Warden, were mailed to all parishioners. The June 25th sermon/announcement and the letters may be found on our website.

Father Richard has accepted a new call to serve as rector of St. Mary's in Tuxedo, New York, and his last Sunday will be on July 16. The diocese is already working on identifying an interim pastor; until then, Father Graff has graciously agreed to take most of the services.

From Father Robyn: "It's been my joy and privilege to serve as 31st rector of Trinity Church Oxford for the last eight years. This church will always have a special place in my heart. Pete and I wish you abundant blessings in the future and ask for your prayers as we start a new chapter of our lives at St. Mary's."

Please join us on Sunday, July 16, at 9am for Father Robyn's final Sunday as Rector of Trinity Church Oxford. There will be a festive coffee hour after the service to honor his eight years of service, and to wish him & Pete Godspeed.
The annual meeting of the Corporation of Trinity Church Oxford was held on Sunday, April 23rd, and a full copy of the annual report may be obtained at church or by contacting the office. At the meeting, we thanked outgoing Vestry members Chuck McGee and Ray Grossmuller for their service and elected John McClarin (his second term), Susan McConomy, Kyle Sammin and Myrna Tuttle to the Vestry. Lorie Henry and Susan McConomy were elected as delegates to Diocesan Convention, with Chuck Tucker and Joan Williams as alternates. Lorie Henry and Susan McConomy were elected as Deanery Representatives. Many thanks to all who serve in these important leadership roles that help our parish grow and prosper.

Grant, Lord God, to all who have been baptized into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, that, as we have put away the old life of sin, so we may be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and live in righteousness and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Congratulations to Amy & Eric Liberi on the birth of their son Frank Sampson on June 2, 2017! Frank is the grandson of Mary Sampson, our organist and choirmaster.

Congratulations to Joanie & Keith Williams on the birth of their daughter Emma Kathleen on June 17, 2017! Everyone is overjoyed, especially Emma’s brother Jack and the extended Annand family.
Calendar Meeting
Before each new program year begins, we hold a calendar meeting to lay out the schedule for the coming year. We are happy to report that a full year of exciting activities has been planned for the Trinity community. Please see the sidebar of this newsletter and mark these important dates in your own calendar. You may find all Trinity events listed on our website calendar.

Choir Recognition
We are truly blessed with a wonderful music program at Trinity! On May 7, we celebrated Choir Recognition Sunday where our bell choir rang and the senior choir sang anthems at the offertory and Communion. Plus, there was celebratory cake at a festive coffee hour!

Class of 2017
Congratulations to members of the Trinity family who graduated this spring, including Sarah Henry from Audubon High and Margaret Smith from Upper Moreland High!

Easter at Trinity
Holy Week at Trinity began with Palm Sunday, where Father Richard blessed the palms and we processed around the block before entering the church in triumph. The service included the bell choir and the reading of the Passion by our congregation. Please visit our Facebook page for photos of the event along with a great video of the procession created by Kyle Tucker. A simple mass was held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week. Father Richard participated in the Mass of Collegiality at the
On Maundy Thursday evening, the altar was stripped reverently by the acolytes and ceremonially washed to represent the tomb - everyone then processed from the dark and empty church to the Buchanan Building, where an altar of repose (representing the Garden of Gethsemane) provided an opportunity for silent reflection. On Good Friday evening, the senior choir presented a service of Tenebrae.

The joy of Easter Sunday arrived with a full church eager to hear the good news of the resurrection! Beautiful flowers and music filled the church, including a fine brass ensemble and a rousing rendition of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. After the service, the children participated in the annual Easter egg hunt in the churchyard. Please visit our Facebook page for photos of the Triduum along with a video of Easter Sunday services live-blogged by Father Richard. Many thanks to everyone who helped make Easter so special!

**Kickoff Sunday**

We will celebrate our annual "Kickoff Sunday" on September 17, when we will be joined for worship by our full Senior Choir, commission our next Sunday School class, and enjoy fellowship at our fall picnic.

**Marriage Banns**

I hereby publish the banns of marriage between Maria Mejia and Kyle Tucker. If any of you know cause or just impediment why these persons should not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, ye are bidden to declare it.

Father Richard

**Redevelopment Update**

The Redevelopment Committee is happy to announce that we have a fully executed lease for the 6901 property. We will continue to work with the City
of Philadelphia to secure the proper zoning to continue to move forward with this critical project. We are hopeful to have the rezoning completed by early Fall. Please keep this committee and all those who are working on the project in your prayers. Please see Lorie Henry if you have any questions about this project.

**Summer Hours**

In order to take advantage of cool temperatures and maximize attendance, there will be one service at 9am on Sundays from July 2 thru September 3. Regular service times will resume on Kickoff Sunday, September 10. This change was very well received last year and even forged some new connections between parishioners who typically attend only one of the services. Also, please note that church office hours from Memorial Day thru Labor Day are Tuesday thru Thursday, 9am to 1pm.

**Trinity Sunday and Bishop Visitation**

319 years ago, our forefathers brought forth in Oxford Township a new church dedicated to the Holy Trinity. On this Trinity Sunday, June 11, 2017, our feast of title, we gathered together to celebrate another year of ministry in this place. Father Richard's sermon may be found on his blog. The festivities continued on Father's Day, June 18, when Bishop Rodney Michel, a good friend of Trinity's, preached and celebrated. Please visit our Facebook page for photos of Trinity Sunday and Bishop Michel's visitation.

**Vestry Highlights**

We are so happy to announce that following the annual meeting, Trinity Church, Oxford has a full vestry of 12 members! There is a renewed energy among our congregation and it is evident in the election of our new Vestry representatives. The following officers were elected: Jason McConomy, as Accounting Warden and Patty McGee as Secretary.

As the saying goes, "many hands make light work", or my favorite "teamwork makes the dreamwork", so please talk to a committee chair and see how you can help! The Vestry also appointed new committee chairs to each of the Vestry committees. As you can see below, there are many ways for you to share in the life and community of Trinity Church, Oxford. Please talk to a committee chair to see how you can help!

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
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<td>Christian Education</td>
<td>Laurie Yuhnke</td>
<td>Sunday School and Adult Ed programs</td>
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<td>Myrna Tuttle</td>
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<td>Communications &amp; Tech</td>
<td>Maria Mejia</td>
<td>Trinitarian, social media, website and technology solutions</td>
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<td>Community Involvement</td>
<td>Ginny McCracken</td>
<td>Outreach and opportunities for community engagement</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Patty McGee</td>
<td>All things financial, including the</td>
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At a special meeting of the Vestry in June, it was with heavy hearts that the Vestry accepted the resignation of Father Robyn. We are blessed to have Father Graff who has agreed to fill in until an Interim Rector is called. The Vestry will meet with Jill Mathis, Canon for Transitional Ministry at the end of July to begin to plan the transition from Father Robyn's service, discussing things such as the call of an Interim Rector, the formation of a Discernment (Search) Committee and our next steps as we move forward. It is anticipated that an Interim Rector will be called in early Fall and the Discernment Committee will be formed around that time as well.

As we move through the process to call a new Rector, the Vestry will be as transparent as possible, providing periodic updates on Sunday mornings, on the website and at anytime anyone has a question. Please don't be shy - if you're wondering, please ask!

Please keep Father Robyn and Pete in your prayers as they move forward in their service at St. Mary's in Tuxedo, NY; keep the Vestry in your prayers as they lead through this transition and keep each other in your prayers as we lean on each other for understanding and strength and we look towards the future.

Schedule of Events

Every Sunday thru September 3, one service at 9am followed by coffee hour

Sunday, July 16, Father Richard's final Sunday at Trinity, 9am

Sunday, August 20, Frank Sampson Liberi baptism at 9am

Sunday, September 10, regular hours resume, two services at 8am (spoken) and 10am (with choir); Emma Kathleen Williams baptism at 10am

Sunday, September 17, Kickoff Sunday, Senior Choir returns and Sunday School resumes during the 10am service