



Rector's Reflections

Dear Trinity Family,

Another church year is beginning. Another Advent.

Another opportunity to slow down, to sit quietly, to read, to pray, to contemplate the mystery of God's coming among us as a human being. Jesus, born to Mary of Nazareth, by the Holy Spirit. For us and for our salvation.



Or at least I would slow down and contemplate that mystery if only I had the time. I'm just too darn busy.

And I don't think I'm the only one. Hardly a day goes by that I don't ask one of you, "How are you doing?" and hear you reply, "I'm just so busy!" We send out Doodle polls and pull out Google calendars, or pocket planners to find a time to sit together. Nope. That's soccer. Not then, it's dance lessons. Doctor's appointment. Birthday dinner. Soccer again. SATs. Community College class. Play practice. Soccer's done, but now it's basketball. How about Tuesday afternoon, in two weeks? I have about an hour between 2 and 3...

We all seem to have become human *doings* rather than human *beings*. And it occurs to me that Advent—the time when we, the church, celebrate God's becoming a human being—might be an ideal time to get in touch with our own being human again.

Muslim scholar Omid Safi showed me the true meaning of the Christian season of Advent in a column he wrote for *On Being* several years ago. You can read the whole thing here: <https://goo.gl/N2LJPV>

"In many Muslim cultures, when you want to ask them how they're doing, you ask: in Arabic, Kayf haal-ik? or, in Persian, Haal-e shomaa chetoreh? How is your haal? What is this haal that you inquire about? It is the transient state of one's heart. In reality, we ask, 'How is your heart doing at this very moment, at this breath?' When I ask, 'How are you?' that is really what I want to know.

I am not asking how many items are on your to-do list, nor asking how many items are in your inbox. I want to know how your heart is doing, at this very moment. Tell me. Tell me your heart is joyous, tell me your heart is aching, tell me your heart is sad, tell me your heart craves a human touch. Examine your own heart, explore your soul, and then tell me something about your heart and your soul.

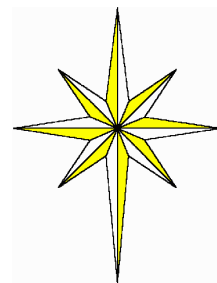
Tell me you remember you are still a human being, not just a human doing. Tell me you're more than just a machine, checking off items from your to-do list. Have that conversation, that glance, that touch. Be a healing conversation, one filled with grace and presence. Put your hand on my arm, look me in the eye, and connect with me for one second. Tell me something about your heart, and awaken my heart. Help me remember that I too am a full and complete human being, a human being who also craves a human touch."

My prayer for each of you this Advent is that you will find—no, will *make*—time to be in touch with your own heart. And that you will bring your heart and soul to the manger and just be with God, who came to be with us.

With love,

Nancy+

Save the Dates!



Contemplative Thursday

Nights—in the Library Chapel at 7 pm 12/1, 12/8, 12/15 & 12/22

Advent Quiet Day—December 10, 9 am – 1 pm

Marcus Borg DVD Series—Embracing an Adult Faith—Advent Sundays at 11:30 am

The Longest Night Service—Wednesday, December 21 at 7:30 pm

Youth-Led Service—Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 10:15 am

Sunday School Happy Birthday Jesus Party—Sunday, December 18

Christmas Eve Worship—December 24 at 4 pm and 9:30 pm (music begins at 9)

Christmas Day Worship—December 25 at 10 am in Historic Trinity Chapel

Christmas Lessons and Carols—January 1 at 10 am in the Church

Epiphany Pageant—January 8 at 10 am in the Church

One Parish, One Book—*The Heart of Christianity* 1/18, 1/25, 2/1 at 7 pm

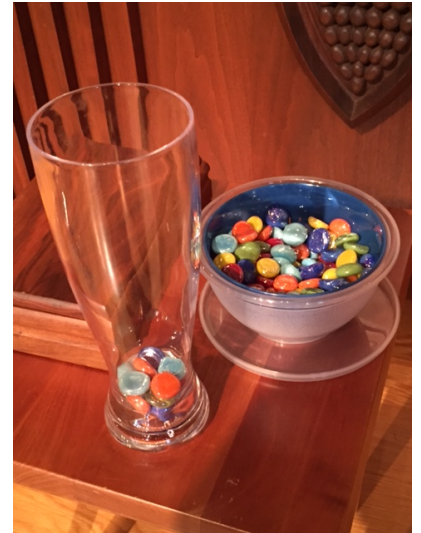
Relationships Seminars—Sunday, February 12 at 11:30 pm; Wednesdays, 2/15 & 2/22 at 7 pm

9:15 am Worship for Children of All Ages

Have you had the opportunity to check out our new, joyful worship service on Sunday mornings at 9:15?

With drums beating, tambourines shaking, the piano rocking and lots of feet tapping, we sing our praises to God, drop our prayer beads in the bottomless well of God's love, hear a Gospel story and children's sermon, put our treasure in a piggy bank and share bread and wine around the altar. It's a full worship experience, including Holy Communion, in just half an hour.

And after worship there are crafts for the children in the Library Chapel as they wait with their parents for Sunday School to begin, and coffee/snack fellowship — a "Parents' Cafe" — for old and new friends to share their lives and the challenges of living faithfully as busy families. Looking for a fresh charge of energy for your spiritual life? Come and join us!



Scenes from our first 9:15 Worship Service

Advent Quiet Day

Saturday, December 10, 2016

9 AM to 1 PM

Treat your spirit to a quiet pause in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the season.

Retreat leader and EfM Mentor Donna Devlin, former director of Christian Formation at St. John the Divine in New York will lead us in a series of activities and reflections as we pray for God to be born anew in us this year.

The fee for this special event is \$25, which includes lunch. Space is limited. Please register by December 4 by calling or emailing the office — 215-794-7921 or office@trinitybuckingham.org. Please let us know if you need childcare or a scholarship.





The Longest Night Service

Wednesday, December 21, 2016

7:30 pm

Historic Trinity Chapel

For many people, the Christmas season is a time for joy, for others it can be a reminder of the loss of a loved one, the loss of health, or the loss of a dream. On the longest night of the year, December 21st, we will light candles, sit in prayer and in silence, play music and long together for God's light to brighten the darkness, God's love to surround us, and God's peace to sustain us.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, 2016

4pm Family Crèche Service - Join us for Holy Communion and the telling of Luke's Christmas Story and familiar carols as children place the nativity figures in the crèche.

9pm Special Christmas Music

9:30pm Festive, traditional choral Eucharist service

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, 2016 in Historic Trinity Chapel

10am Contemplative Worship, Carols, Holy Communion

New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, 2017

10am Christmas Lessons and Carols and Holy Communion

Epiphany, Sunday, January 8, 2017

10am Epiphany Pageant

Our children tell the story of Jesus' birth and the visit of the Magi, followed by Holy Communion

*We return to our regular schedule of 8am, 9:15am, and 10:15am services
and Sunday School at 10am on January 15, 2017*



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 29, 2016

10 AM Worship

11:15 Brunch and Meeting

Every year the members of Trinity Buckingham gather to give God thanks for the year that has passed, to embrace the year to come by electing new Vestry members, and to discuss our Mission Spending Plan (budget). The Rector will share her annual reflection during the sermon time, and the Vestry will lead a conversation about our common life in Faith Hall after Worship as we share brunch.

december

1	Kathleen Pilla
2	Rachael Shisler
2	Dan Shisler
9	Nicholas Bluder
9	Michele Barkalow
10	Richard Jaedicke
10	Dominick DeCaprio
11	Thomas Brown Jr.
13	Sam Jankowski
13	Leonard Crooke
16	Fred Erk
21	Terence McCreary
22	Carol Downs
23	Robert Kirchner
23	Christopher Bannon
24	Carol Trunzo
24	Nicholas Moore
26	Deborah McLean
27	Jeffrey Kroberger
29	Elizabeth Slim
29	Kathi Sadowski

happy birthday!

january

3	Ray Perisho
7	Maddie Wanzer
7	Livy Wanzer
7	Sally Lord
9	Jill Unger
9	Deana Corrigan
10	Tyler Zak
14	Mark Evans
17	Louis Vollrath
17	William Plum
19	The Rev. Allan W. Reed
20	Dennis Zak
20	Mae Pechal
21	Liz Oliver
27	Meryl Lasala
30	Ken McConeghy
30	Zachary Haeusel

february

2	Bernadette Gross
4	Aileen Wanzer
6	Pam Fuchs
11	Emily McCreary
12	Steven Guidry
14	Daphne Rolleri
15	Mark Eichhorn
18	Christian Serban
19	Connor Wisnom
20	Jessica Overington
21	Catherine Kirchner
23	Jamie Shisler
23	Corinne Shisler
26	Barry McCabe
26	Mary Ellen Brehm



Sunday School News

As we began November, we prepared for Thanksgiving and Christmas. November 6 was our celebration of **All Saints Day**. The children dressed up as saints of their choice and our Parish members guessed the Saint they were portraying. This was not only a fun activity for the children, but an educational one as well!

On November 13, we began our **Christmas Shoe Box** ministry. This year we will be assembling shoe boxes for the Bucks County Family Services.

These boxes will be delivered throughout the year when case workers go to visit children. Our Sunday School children wrapped boxes in festive wrapping paper on November 13. We have put together lists by age groups of items needed for each of the shoe boxes. All boxes are due back to Trinity on the 11th of December. Thank you in advance for your participation in this Sunday School program.



To celebrate the first Sunday in Advent, we made **Advent wreaths** on November 27. They turned out quite well!

On December 18th, we will be holding our annual **Happy Birthday Jesus** party. The party will be from 10:00 am – 10:45 am.

There will not be Sunday School on Sunday, December 25th.

Our **Epiphany Pageant** will be held during the 10am service on Sunday, January 8th. Please mark your calendars as the pageant was absolutely wonderful last year! We shall look forward to your attendance this year.

In addition to Epiphany, children will begin to make **Valentines** on January 29th for our Parish shut-ins and members of our Armed Forces, along with cards for the Veterans in the **Delaware Valley Veterans Home**. If you have a loved one, or know of a Veteran, please let me know their address or let our church office know so they too could receive a card. Besides Valentines, I wish you and your family a Blessed Thanksgiving and Joyous Christmas!

Sallee Lord

Meet the Prayer Chain Ministry

The Trinity Prayer Chain Ministry is a team of men and women who pray daily for the specific concerns of the community.

While we know that God knows our needs before we ask, we believe that when we pray, we intentionally align ourselves with God's healing light and love, and individuals and the community itself are drawn towards healing and wholeness. The names and concerns for which we pray are held in strict confidence among the intercessors.

How to submit a name to the Prayer Chain:

1. Fill out a prayer request card found in the rear of the church and in the office and give it to Bernadette Gross (prayer chain coordinator);
2. Email or phone Bernadette Gross bahg@verizon.net **267-221-2092**;
3. Fill out a prayer request on our website www.trinitybuckingham.org (coming soon)

We will pray for the person or concern for a month. If you desire prayers of a longer duration, please resubmit your concern along with an update at the end of the month.

How to join the Prayer Chain Ministry as an intercessor:

Contact Bernadette Gross or Nancy Dilliplane+. This is a ministry you can do in your own home and on your own time. Members do meet together quarterly for prayer, fellowship and mutual support.

Nancy+ and Bernadette





They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer; they broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad

and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
Acts 2:42; 46-47

This season develops with the mystery of the incarnate and leads us to the promise of God. **The Youth Group is now galvanized in activities and has lots to come over this wonderful holiday season.**

With just a few months under our belt, we see involvement in our church community and with each other. It is a sight to behold as they take charge of activities which promote service to the church and community, fellowship with each other and new friends, while learning about our Lord.

We remain grounded in our mission to build a slow and sustainable youth group organically. We ask for your patience as we continue to teach the kids to lead, plan and execute proactively. Be on the lookout for our future leaders.

Welcome to the "Burn Your Sins Bonfire". It was a beautiful fall night, we had **18!** youth group aged kids join us for a night of fun by the fire, manhunt in the woods, and a good ol' fashion trampoline. The kids were nourished by hot apple cider and hot dogs cooked over the fire, thanks Mrs. Stalker for the cooking help and the excellent venue. Thanks to Jack Harar for the event title — each kid got to think about something to leave in the past and throw it into the fire!

The coming months will include: A Dinner for Veterans, A Christmas Party and Tree Decoration, Coordination of Activities at the Christmas Party, and a Youth Led Service.

We appreciate your prayers and support as we build a sustainable program. Please share this with all who have kids in this age group and would like to connect with our Trinity Buckingham Youth Group. Please send us new members, there is something for everyone.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at:
TrinityBuckinghamyouthgroup@gmail.com

Kelly Harar



Trinity Youth Group

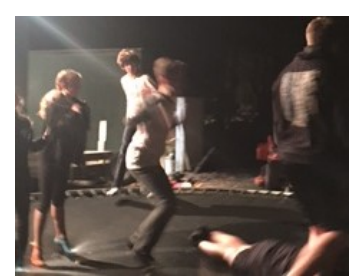
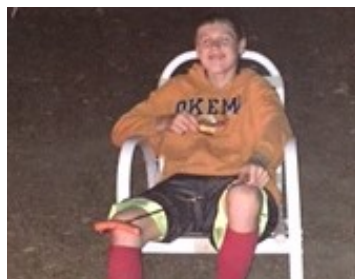
Meeting Dates

12 December

8 January

12 February

7:30-8:45 pm



From the Rector's Warden

As a kid I vividly remember how older generations would sometimes say: "The older you get, the faster the years go by". At the time I couldn't relate to those words, until such time that I became part of an older generation! Since then it seems like months and years DO fly by! It's almost 2017, and 2016 is essentially in the history books! **So what has happened at Trinity this past year? —**

As we all know, Trinity is a happening place! Yes, not a day goes by where there isn't SOMETHING go on at Trinity. Nancy started **Centering Prayer** on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in Historic Trinity. There were more **Faith Hall Rentals** in 2016 and several weddings in Historic Trinity. Of course, **Jazz & Joe** has been gaining attendance by many in our community outside of our church family. Our **music program** continues to expand with several ensembles throughout the year. There's also the **Sunday Forum and Wednesday Evening Series** for those of us interested in pastoral care. Then there was the **175th Anniversary Celebration** of our lovely historic church on Nov 6th. Plans are also underway to re-establish our **Youth Group!**

Diocesan Convention 2016

The 233rd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania (DIOPA) was held November 4-5 at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, 38th and Chestnut Streets. Rector Nancy and your three diocesan delegates, Dom and Janet De Caprio, and Jill Unger, attended.

Our new bishop, The Rt Rev Daniel Gutierrez, presided over an overwhelmingly upbeat convention. He expressed his gratitude to be called as our 16th bishop. Bishop Gutierrez reiterated our mission is to help those in need, including struggling parishes and missions. One of the agenda items is always to recognize clergy anniversaries. **Our own Rev Allan Reed celebrated his 60th year of ordination in 2016!** Please congratulate Allan when you see him.

Also on the agenda was a resolution to continue our more than **20-year companion diocesan relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Guatemala.** An impressive crowd of clergy and laity, including several youth, who have traveled to Guatemala, showed the strength of this mission work. The resolution was unanimously accepted. We see the annual summer mission trip to Guatemala, well-organized by 12 parishes in our diocese, as a special opportunity for Trinity youth and adults who may want to attend. The convention closed with prayer and an optimistic view of the future of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. We are blessed to serve as your diocesan delegates.

Dom De Caprio

These are just a few of the many, many activities and ministries at Trinity Buckingham. The Vestry continues to work on **strategic planning** for our future. We are working to establish committees to address the various needs and issues gathered from your feedback at the **Brats & Beer** conversations we attended last summer.

We conducted a **Mutual Ministry Review** in late September where the Vestry did some brainstorming and soul searching to enable us to plan and work more effectively with one another. The Vestry has since seen the need to schedule additional Vestry meetings over the next few months to maintain the momentum we've started. This is all good!

I feel energized that many more great things are in store for Trinity in 2017. In January we will be filling three positions on Vestry. I hope to obtain candidates for those positions in the next few weeks. Please contact me or Nancy for more information. In the meantime, enjoy the Advent Season. I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a joyful New Year!

Peace to all,

Dom De Caprio

Our Church Family

Weddings

September 24, 2016

Richard Bradbury Jr. to Laura Adshead

October 22, 2016

Steve Sanders to Amber Farrell

Deaths

Nancy L. Richardson

September 21, 2016

Mary Elizabeth "Bette" Osterman

September 23, 2016

James Leonard Crooke

October 10, 2016

Seniors Who Care

Seniors Who Care is made up of seniors from Trinity who participate regularly in many ministries serving various needs of the congregation both spiritually and socially.

Members are involved in the choir, ECW, the prayer chain ministry, Jazz & Joe, ushers and greeters, readers, pastoral care, casseroles for Lambertville, Code Blue volunteers and helped initiate the prayer shawl ministry. We can be found wherever there is a need. Our current group ministry is sending greeting cards to our shut ins on Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentines Day and Easter.

The group comes together socially once a month to enjoy fellowship by going out to lunch. This year some of those lunches were held at Buttonwood Grill, Piccolo Trattoria, and Villa Barolla. Our November 9th luncheon will be at the Turning Point with our December lunch at Plumsteadville Inn on December 7th.

Look for announcements of upcoming events in the Sunday Trumpet and/or the Trinity Times announcing coming events. Plan on joining us. If you plan on attending please let Rae Russell ([215-491-1377](tel:215-491-1377)) or Bernadette Gross (bahg@verizon.net) know.

Bernadette Gross

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you so much for all your kind expressions of sympathy and support following the death of our dear son Jimmy. We are very grateful also for the many donations to the Multiple Myeloma Research Fund (MMRF) to find a cure for this dreadful disease. Jim was chosen to be the Spirit of Hope Honoree at this year's MMRF 5K race/walk in Philadelphia. He was an inspiration to so many!

Sincerely and With Love,

Elizabeth and Leonard Crooke

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Blanket Sunday for Church World Service is set for February 12th. We live in a "disaster-prone" world. For 30 years Trinity Church has been partnering with CWS to provide comfort in times of trouble. The \$5.00 CWS blanket is a basic component of every disaster response program. When people are homeless, cold and alone, a warm woolen blanket offers primary protection and shelter, as well as emotional solace in the most fearful of circumstances. Special Blanket Sunday envelopes for your donations will be available in the pews. Thank you for helping to share warmth, hope and love around the world!

Layette Sunday, a Lenten project, will take place on March 19th. This is an ingathering of new infant garments and blankets which will be assembled into layettes for distribution to needy new mothers. Watch for more specific information in future months.

ABC Quilts – It's not too early to start planning and sewing little "love and comfort" quilts for at-risk babies in the greater Philadelphia area. For guidelines, please contact Elizabeth Crooke at [215-598-3575](tel:215-598-3575) or ward.crooke@gmail.com. Quilts will be on display in the narthex on Mother's Day, May 14, 2017.

Elizabeth Crooke



"The Holy Folders" were very busy at work helping to put together all the mailings for our recent Stewardship Drive. Fine folding job indeed!

Happenings from the Academy

There have been **LOTS** of activities happening around the school this fall. First, the school celebrates its **50th birthday** in 2017, and our children **love** to celebrate birthdays! **Our plan is to celebrate by accomplishing 50 events/ service projects before the end of 2017.** We kicked off our celebration with our name change to Trinity Buckingham Academy and the arrival of the beautiful sign for the church and school with a photo op and article in The Herald (big thank you to Caroline Oakes!). Twenty-one new families joined our classes at the beginning of our school year, and everyone settled into routines quickly and happily.

We had an exciting visit from **Midway Fire Company** at the beginning of October for fire safety week. We love to investigate the fire truck and seeing all of the gear that the fire fighters wear to protect themselves! Parents, grandparents and siblings joined us for a crisp fall morning as we had our annual **Boo Parade**. It is an exciting time to get to masquerade as super heroes, princesses and even a cupcake.

We have celebrated our birthday with a momentous (and ambitious) event. **Bake sales** (with our children mixing, rolling and decorating countless cookies and cupcakes with parent assistance), **fundraisers and donations** for the past 15 months raised enough funds to purchase an age-appropriate, **wheelchair accessible climber designed for our preschoolers.**

Our parents are amazing, and a **big thank you to the parent volunteers** who donated their time the last weekend in October to assemble our newest addition to the playground.

We are looking forward to November and learning about **giving thanks for our blessings**, and the month of December and celebrating another special birthday with our **Christmas Pageant**. **All are welcome to join us on Thursday, December 15th at 10:00 am in the Chapel as we celebrate.** As teachers, we look forward to the peace and serenity of the winter months for the wonder and discovery of growing and learning.

Blessings,

Steph Elliott and the staff of Trinity Buckingham Academy



Trinity Book Club

Come read with us...

January 25

**The Shepherds' Life,
A Tale of the Lake District**
by James Rebanks

Join us!
7:30 pm in the Library

Lauren Gillen



Lay Associate Corner

The Strength and Simplicity of Mary, the Young Mother

*Mary, she moves behind me
She leaves her fingerprints everywhere –
Every time the snow drifts, every way the sand shifts,
Even when the night lifts, she's always there.*

— singer-songwriter Patti Griffin

For many of us, one of the most life-giving gifts of the Christmas season is the ancient and iconic image of Mary and her baby Jesus in the Nativity scene. In this season, Mary can transcend the dogmatic, religious constructs the Church has layered onto her — Mary the Miraculous, Mary the Mediator, Mary the Immaculate — and we can be in touch with the simple but powerful image of Mary as Mother.

For some Christians, Mary as Mother personifies divine comfort, tenderness and strength, often in both the personal and the universal sense, as in Hinduism, Shakti personifies The Divine Mother, and also represents the creative, dynamic forces that are thought to move throughout the entire universe.

I envy those who were introduced to Mary as young children. As the Church deified and over-politicized the image of Mary over the centuries, many denominations rejected any emphasis on Mary, so that for many of us growing up as Protestants, Christmas is the only season we get to see or experience Mary at all.

In his recent award-winning Life magazine essay “A Meditation on Mary,” writer and editor Robert Sullivan speaks passionately of a need for all denominations to humanize Mary, to move beyond her deification to a Mary who might transcend ideologies and be embraced by all.

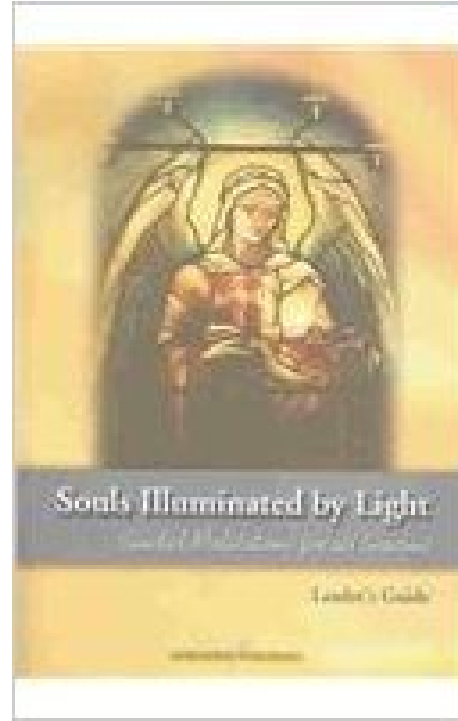
“Many Protestants, even some who reject notions of a supernatural Virgin, miss Mary,” he says, pointing out the growing numbers of interdenominational Marian prayer groups springing up throughout the world, and the large numbers of Muslims making pilgrimages to Christian Marian shrines.

Sullivan envisions an understanding of “an entirely human Mary ... who can lead what has become not a cult but a huge and passionate movement ... and give this tumultuous world the mother it needs.”

According to the Gospels, Mary was called to bring forth into the world her divinely imbued gifts for the sake of others. “My soul doth magnify the Lord,” was Mary’s understanding of her call.

May we go forth like Mary – with strength and tenderness – and magnify ours.

Caroline Oakes



Advent Contemplative Evenings: Rest and Restore With Half-Hour Guided Meditations

Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22

7:00 – 7:30 pm

Library Chapel

Advent can be a challenge, trying to balance inevitable pre-Christmas busy-ness with our inner desire to focus and center ourselves on our soul’s journey. Come to Trinity’s Library Chapel from 7:00 to 7:30 pm for a restful series of guided meditations — **Souls Illuminated by Light**, guided meditations for those seeking a deeper relationship with God.

The series combines scripture and guided imagery to lead participants to a quiet place for personal reflection and prayer. The program includes a CD with four guided meditations recorded against a backdrop of tranquil music. Lay Associate Caroline Oakes will lead us with an introduction to contemplative prayer and reflection questions to take home between each meditation.

Here is a chance to take just a few moments to rest and restore and become more aware of God’s abiding presence in your Advent journey toward Christmas.

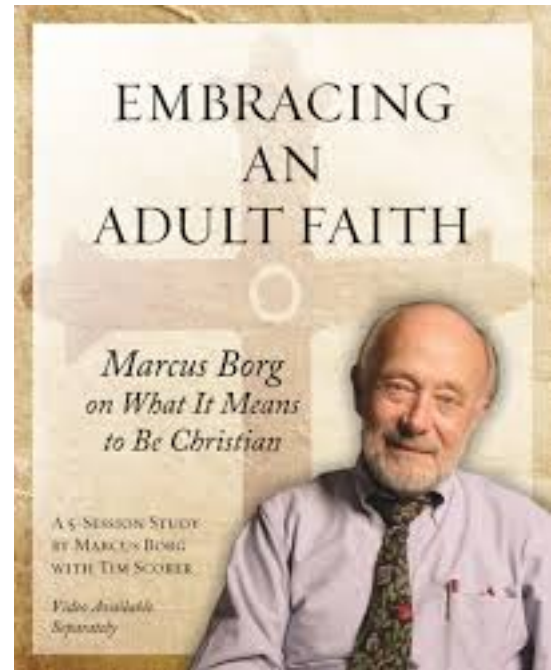
Exciting Winter Sunday Forums Ahead

Sundays, December 4 & 11

Embracing an Adult Faith: Marcus Borg on What It Means to Be Christian

Is your faith and understanding of Scripture not a lot different from what you learned in the third grade? Do you long for a fresh and new awareness of the life wisdom the Gospels can bring to you in your work and in your relationships?

We are halfway through our 5-week series *Embracing an Adult Faith: Marcus Borg on What It Means to Be Christian*, an exciting, open-minded five-session adult formation resource for new seekers and church alumni alike who enjoy "living the questions" of faith, and exploring what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world. You do not need to have attended the first sessions to join in now. Come and see all Marcus Borg offers through his new and life-changing paradigm of wisdom and understanding.



Sunday, February 12

Intentional Listening With Our Life Partner: How to Listen and Feel Heard in our Closest Relationships

Maya Kollman, internationally known Marriage Counselor and Workshop Facilitator based in Princeton, NJ, will discuss why our closest relationships are often our most challenging, and then reveal to us how these very relationships can ultimately be our most healing ones.

In Maya's Sunday presentation *and following Wednesday Evening Series*, she will explain the fundamental importance of **active listening** as a way to deepen our connections with one another, and will outline an "intentional dialog" process she teaches in her workshops.

Maya Kollman, MA is a gifted therapist and Relationship Coach, a passionate and down-to-earth workshop presenter, and a powerful and dynamic clinical instructor of mental health professionals. She is one of only five certified Master Trainers in Imago Relationship Therapy, developed by Harville Hendrix and Helen LaKelly Hunt. She is also trained and certified by Dr. Hendrix and the Institute of Imago Relationship Therapy as a workshop presenter for *Getting the Love You Want* and *Keeping the Love You Find* workshops and as a clinical instructor to train therapists in all levels of Imago Relationship Therapy training.

Maya is a former Professor at Rutgers University and currently maintains a private practice in New Jersey. She is widely sought worldwide for training, supervision and lectures.



Intercessory Prayer: The Blessing of Praying for Others

Sunday, February 26

In this forum, Trinity Solebury Church member Ann Koberna will share her thoughts and experience on the power and blessing of intercessory prayer, giving some practical suggestions on how to develop a spiritual practice of praying for others.

As Ann says, "Praying for others, or intercessory prayer, is not a new or unfamiliar idea. So the purpose of this discussion is to encourage more of you to pray — for more people, more often ... But why intercessory prayer? Why pray for others? Well, when Jesus was asked, "What is the greatest commandment?" He answered, "to love the Lord your God with all of your heart and mind and soul....and love your *neighbor* as yourself." We are called to community. Likewise, when Jesus was asked how we should pray, He taught us to "pray in this way: *Our* Father who art in heaven,.....Give *us our* daily bread, and forgive *us our* trespasses....." There is not one 'I' or 'me' or 'my' in the entire Lord's Prayer. Intercession is woven into the very fabric of Jesus' teaching on prayer."

Do not miss this important and dynamic lesson on the blessing of praying for others.



Epiphany All-Parish Book Study!

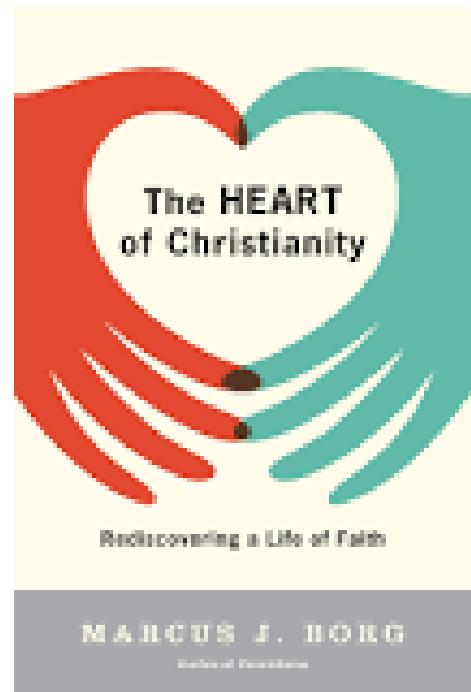
Wednesday evenings, January 18 & 25 and February 1

Many Trinity members have asked for this chance for our entire parish to read a book together, and the book that has been chosen has struck a responsive chord in countless Christians worldwide — ***The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*** by Marcus Borg

Marcus Borg's accessible and very readable style leads us into "a thinking person's faith," chronicling his own journey from a literal, dogmatic understanding of the Gospels into an adult faith that leads him to care for those in need.

In *Heart of Christianity*, Borg connects knowledge, scripture, tradition and life experience with faith-in-action through a Christian outlook that is refreshing and compelling.

Come and discuss the Parish Book with fellow parishioners on these three Wednesday evenings. And if you can't make the evening book studies, please consider taking a good look at ***The Heart of Christianity*** so that, as people of Trinity Buckingham parish, we can share a common language and understanding of just what is the heart of Christianity and how we might together live into God's call to us.



Conversations on Science and Technology



I believe one of the biggest challenges for the Christian Church in the modern western world is trying to reinterpret and present a sacred scripture that was written down 2,500 to 3,500 years ago

(in the case of the Old Testament Hebrew Bible) and close to 2,000 years ago for the Gospels and other New Testament scriptures.

I imagine a lot of church members, and would-be church members, walk out the door never to return, because they just have such a hard time making sense of the Bible in the context of the world they live in today.

Richard Rohr is a Franciscan friar ordained to the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church in 1970. He is a widely read author and publishes online daily meditations interpreting and making Christian theology relevant to the modern reader. He often stimulates my theological imagination. He published two meditations recently, one titled "God in All Things" [1] and "The Blueprint" [2] that resonated with my interest in the science and theology dialogue. For many Christians, our understanding of the mysterious nature of God is evolving. Before I attempt to unpack Richard Rohr's concepts, I want to place before us two of the most mystical and well-known scriptural passages: Genesis 1:1-5 and John 1: 1-5. I want those words in the front of your mind as I reflect on those famous passages.

Genesis 1: 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. (NIV)

John 1: 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (NIV)

Many mystics have seen the Divine Presence and the Divine Consciousness in all of Creation since the beginning of space and time. Francis of Assisi understood this Divine Presence in all creatures and all things. [1] John Duns, commonly called Duns Scotus, is generally considered to be one of the three most important philosopher theologians of the High Middle Ages. Scotus interpreted John 1:1 as the "blueprint of reality" and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a Jesuit priest, geologist, paleontologist, and co-discoverer of Peking Man, writing in the first half of 20th century, brought this blueprint insight into our modern world.[1]

"God's first 'idea' was to become manifest — to pour out divine, infinite love into finite, visible forms. The 'Big Bang' is now our scientific name for that first idea; and 'Christ' is our theological name. Both are about love and beauty exploding outward in all directions." [1]

According to Rohr, "Creation is indeed the Body of God! What else could it be?" [1] Let's pause for a moment and remind ourselves of some of the various words used for the totality of the Divine, including the Divine Presence, Divine Consciousness, the Spirit, the Light, the Word (the Logos in Greek), the Blueprint, and Love. It all began with a cosmic act of Love. [2] In John 1:1-5, "The Word (Christ) was with God, and the Word was God," speaking of the union and unity of the Divine Nature of God as the Trinity of God/Christ/Spirit".

Richard Rohr in his meditation substitutes the word "Blueprint" in John 1:1 instead of "Word" or "Logos," because the meaning is synonymous to him. Logos is the inner blueprint. [2] In John 1:3 it says, "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." "This Light/Life/Love shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it." [2] "The visible galaxies we see strewn across space are nothing more than strings of luminous flotsam drifting on an invisible sea of dark matter," writes astrophysicist Adam Frank. [3]

Franciscan Sister Ilia Delio explains: "Scientists speculate that dark energy comprises about 73 percent of the total mass-energy of the universe and accelerates expansion of the universe." [4] As in Genesis 1:1-5, the universe is an interplay between light and darkness. When you build a house you need a blueprint. When you build life you need DNA, which is the blueprint for all life on Earth. Thus, all things came to be through this inner blueprint.

see **Conversations** on next page

Conversations continued

The inner reality of God's Consciousness or God's Mind is made manifest in the Creation, and in John's Gospel it flows through Christ (The Word, The Logos). This Divine Consciousness and Divine Presence is everywhere and in everything. As the Creation exploded, expanded, and has continued to expand for 13.8 billion years, it has carried with it the Conscious Mind of God.

God's Consciousness and God's Plan is carried everywhere as the eternal capacities of the Creation. I like to think that God's Creation has limitations God placed upon the blueprint, and those limitations are defined as the laws of nature.

But, within those limits God has allowed a great deal of freedom. That freedom is expressed in the creative and explosive nature of the universe. That freedom is expressed in the many forms of life that come and go as life responds to the ebb and flow of a changing world environment playing out over some 4.5 billion years of Earth's existence. The blueprint is not one single plan, but an almost infinite number of possible plans.

The plans may manifest themselves over time as the cosmos, life, and humanity interact with the complex web of God's Divine Consciousness, which is everywhere. Closing the loop, I think human consciousness and our awareness of God's Consciousness is our connection, and that happens in our brain. **You might say our one small consciousness connects to the infinite eternal Consciousness of God.**

[1] Richard Rohr: God in All, Center for Action and Contemplation, October 23, 2016.

[2] Richard Rohr: The Blueprint, Center for Action and Contemplation, October 24, 2016.

[3] Adam Frank, The Constant Fire: Beyond the Science vs. Religion Debate, Univ. Calif. Press, pg. 155, 2009.

[4] Ilia Delio, The Unbearable Wholeness of Being: God, Evolution, and the Power of Love, Orbis Books, pg 24, 2013.

Faithfully,

Steven W. Mann, Ph.D.

Music News of Note

Big Band Comes to Trinity Scenes from September 18



**Sunday, March 26, 2017
at 4pm**

Jordan Dodson, guitar

"One of the top young guitarists of his generation...remarkable technique and depth of expression"—Performance Today

Jazz and Joe

A look ahead... Save the Dates

Spring Dates for Jazz and Joe

1/12/17

2/09/17

3/09/17

4/27/17

5/25/17

and

6/25/17

BarBQ & You

November 6, 2016



Greetings to the Faithful at Trinity Church,

It is my pleasure to wish Trinity Episcopal Church a happy 175th birthday! From construction of your church in 1841 to the beautiful community you have become, we are blessed to continue to have Trinity Episcopal Church as a part of our family in Christ. Continue to remember and celebrate the proclamation of our Gospel and the love of Christ through your life and words. After this joyous celebration ends, continue to go forth to serve Christ's people. Continue to nourish them, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and the life to come. May the Lord continue to bless you and keep you, may His face shine on you, and bring you peace. I wish I could be with you in this joyous celebration, but know that my continued thoughts and prayers are with the congregation of Trinity Episcopal Church. Again, happy 175th birthday Trinity Episcopal Church, may God's love be with you always.

Your Brother in Jesus Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutierrez
XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

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Church Website
www.trinitybuckingham.org

Trinity Academy Website
www.trinitybns.org

Church Services:

8 am Holy Communion, Rite II

9:15 am Children of all Ages (New!)

10:15 am Holy Communion, Rite II
with Organist and Choir

Church Office Hours:

10:00 am to 2 pm Monday – Thursday
Closed Fridays

2016 Vestry

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Amy Conoscenti, Accounting Warden 215.534.9020
Elisabeth Goggin, Vestry Secretary 908.732.3645

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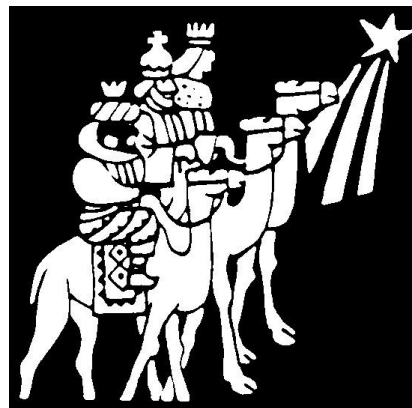
Deputies to Diocesan Convention

Dom DeCaprio
Janet DeCaprio
Jill Unger
Bob Kinney (Alternate)
Kay Kinney (Alternate)

Deanery Delegates

Marty Gillen
Woody Kiel
Judy Krauss

Bernadette Gross.....Prayer Chain Coordinator
Mark Evans.....Buildings and Grounds
Sallee Lord.....Sunday School Director
Cynthia Goode.....Office Administrator
Caroline Oakes.....Lay Associate
Lauren Gillen.....Newsletter Editor



Trinity's Mission —

*Sharing God's love and serving God's people,
with Christ in our hearts and God's work
through our hands.*

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