



VOICE OF TRINITY

August 22, 2020

Volume 20, No. 04

Give Me Patience, and Make It Snappy!

I've been thinking about waiting a lot lately – probably because it seems as if all of us are spending a lot of time doing just that. And along with that, I've been noticing how my patience seems to ebb and flow. Living in this time of global pandemic has made it clear just how tentative a grip the human race has on the ability to tolerate frustration. The public health scientists tell us that it simply isn't safe to move about the world as we're accustomed to do, or to celebrate with friends and family, or even to hug our loved ones or sing hymns in church. Some of us figure out a way to accept that, and others of us, not so much.

And so, we wait. For a vaccine or a cure for the coronavirus. For another study that will give us better news about being together. And sometimes, it seems as if we're getting better at waiting.

The coronavirus is just one of the reasons we've been in the waiting mode lately. First we waited for a tropical storm that was supposed to bring us some much-needed rain. Then, when the storm brought high wind instead of rain, many of us waited days to have our electrical power restored. Even as we get our power and internet connections back, we continue to wait for a return to "normal" – whatever that is.

Yes, in some ways, we've gotten pretty good at waiting. We've been waiting for a new Rector since March of 2019. Through the goodness of the Holy Spirit and the hard work of the Rev. Norman MacLeod, our interim priest-in-charge, our staff and parishioners, we have continued to carry out our many ministries even in the absence of a Rector. Nonetheless, it has been a long wait – one which, thanks be to God, will end in the middle of September when the Rev. Dorothea "Dee" Littlepage joins us.

Even as we continue to grow in our ability to wait with patience and faith, though, there is one thing that simply cannot wait any longer, and that is racial justice. We had a Forum on Zoom in July that was an opportunity for all of us to talk about how racism affects our lives. It was a powerful hour. Elsewhere in this edition of *The Voice*, you will find an article about how our Vestry has decided to take action on racial justice. Please take the time to read it.

Martha Freimuth,
Warden

Adult Christian Formation – Looking Forward to Another Year Of Sunday Forums and Special Events

Through some experimentation last spring, we found that it was possible to offer compelling Sunday forum programs as an optional add-on at the end of selected Zoom services. We had update sessions on Trinity Academy and the North Central Region; we had educational sessions about the Book of Ruth and the music of “Veni Creator Spiritus”; and we had sessions to hear about the experiences of our college students through the onset of the pandemic and then the experiences of many of our parishioners with racism.

Those of us involved in ACF – the task force for Adult Christian Formation at Trinity Church – believe these kinds of programs can help to build us up, individually and as a community. We’re looking forward with excitement to the 2020-21 program that will start on September 6 with a Zoom session on social justice led by long-time member Julian Rose; see the details of this session below. As of this writing, we don’t yet have a full calendar of programs to announce, but we’re working to put together a mix of updates, educational sessions, and opportunities to share our lived experiences with one another.

If you have a suggestion for a Sunday forum or special event, please contact me or any of the other members of the ACF task group, which currently includes Pat Bunker, Frank Kirkpatrick, Roy McAlpine, Everett Post and Al Shuckra. If you have more than one suggestion or simply have an interest in helping to facilitate education and community, please consider joining us on the task group.

One final note: not all Adult Christian Formation happens on Sundays. One wonderful example of this is the Zoom Bible Discussion Group organized by Roy McAlpine. Are you available on Tuesdays at 5:15? Contact Roy for the login information!

- Mark MacGougan

September 6 (after the 10 a.m. Zoom service):

“Church Communities and Social Justice”

Speaker: Julian Rose

In this session, Julian will explain why he believes church communities continue to be important in social justice issues.

Julian Rose is a social justice community organizer, engineer, writer, and educator with years of experience in diversity, equity, and inclusion. As a former employee of Student Diversity Programs at Georgia Tech, where he is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Biomedical Engineering, Julian used storytelling and photojournalism to highlight the diverse identities and experiences on campus. Julian is trained as a Brave Space facilitator, and is also a founding organizer of The People’s Saturday School, and the Political Education Chair of BYP100’s Atlanta Chapter. Julian is a long-time member of Trinity Church, and is the son of parishioners Ruth and Winston Rose.



September

Jannel Thomas	1
Michael Igboanugo	2
Marvelous Igboanugo	2
Shakeem Williams	2
Vincent Bygrave	4
Kathie Wilson	5
Tim Watt	8
Bonni McKenney	10
Neill Derick	12
Lindsey Tengtenga	12
Michael Morel	15
Timothy Swingle	16
Michael Okeke	16
Anne Green	18
Carla Griffith	18
Catie Rutstein	19
Amanda Tronchin	21
Elon Bygrave	22
Roy McAlpine	27
Jolanda Sribanpot	28
Kitty Peterson	29
Callie Rutstein	29

If you have a September birthday not listed above, call Barbara Roos in the parish office at 860-527-8133, Ext. 204, and let her know so she can add your special day to our parish records. Please note that we publish only your birth month and day – not the year!

Update from the Capital Campaign Trail

The Capital Campaign for Trinity Church: Celebrating a Place of Faithful Service to Hartford has been actively working on projects during these unprecedented times.

The campaign has reached \$643,758.86 in total pledges, which comprises 86% of our final goal of \$750,000.00. These pledges from current parishioners (and those of the past) directly affect the preservation of Trinity Church, addressing much-needed restoration projects for current use and future aspirations.

The Campaign is still receiving pledges, and we are striving for a 100% participation rate in the parish. Each pledge, no matter how large or small, will help ensure much-needed building renovations and improvements.

Some of the recent projects accomplished by the Capital Campaign include the restoration of the parish house porch, the installation of new carpet in the sanctuary, new AV equipment to improve the quality of online services, and various roof and gutter repairs to many areas of Trinity's campus. The Campaign is currently in negotiations with a number of prospective contractors who are analyzing and designing plans to improve the church's fire alarm and security systems. This is the current project the Campaign is focusing on, for the well-being

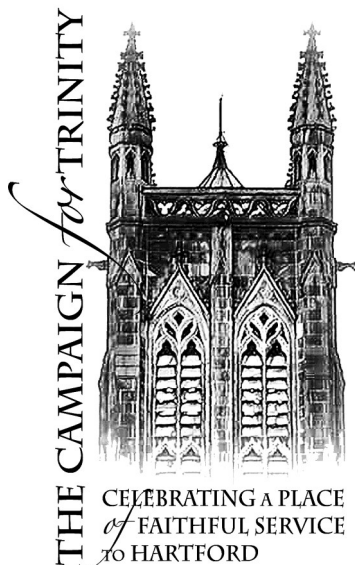
of all who use Trinity's campus, and impacting the life of the parish, Trinity Academy, and the Choir School of Hartford.

Thank you again for your investment in the future of Trinity Church, and by extension the broader communities and lives we serve.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Capital Campaign for Trinity, please e-mail Patrick Reid

(the Capital Campaign Administrator) at preid@trinityhartford.org.

— Patrick Reid



The church office and buildings will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Church School In the Time of COVID-19

In this time when we are not able to hold in-person Church School classes, we are relying on the leadership and community provided by both the Acolytes and Choir School to provide connections and Christian formation for our school-age and teen members. We are hoping to create a recorded or streamed Christmas pageant to share with the entire parish.

For our younger students, we are hoping to offer Godly Play stories virtually this fall. We would welcome any technical support to make this experience the best possible.

We are looking for a group of parents and potential volunteers to come together to plan for the "After COVID" era. Anyone with questions or concerns, or who is willing to assist with Church School should reach out to Kate Byroade Rousseau at byroade@comcast.net.

Take care,
Kate Rousseau & Clement Mogor
Church School Coordinators

Voice Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of *The Voice* is Friday, September 18, at 5:00 p.m. This issue will cover all events scheduled to take place in **October and November**. Please send your article to voice@trinityhartford.org; be sure to send along your information to this address (only) so that it doesn't go astray.

A Statement from The Choir School of Hartford (from the 6/21/20 e-Voice)

Dear friends of The Choir School of Hartford:

The murder of George Floyd was not an isolated event. Mr. Floyd was another unarmed black person whose life was taken by the police. Black people in America live in constant fear for their lives; this must end. The value of a black person's life must be brought to the value of a white person's life. 400 years of slavery, Jim Crow laws, segregation, and mass incarceration all abide in the systemic racism that plagues our country today. While we represent a full range of races and ethnic backgrounds, most of our choristers are black. For our safety, this is not an issue that can be neglected or forgotten. We must all come together to fight against white supremacy and to end racism. This will not happen overnight however, the conversation must start now and never cease.

We leave you with a few words from the black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Until all of God's people can live every day by its message, our fight is not over.

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, 'til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

Dinaka
Head Chorister (2018-2020)

Kodi Jane
Head Chorister (2020-2021)
Prefect & Organ Scholar

Margaret
Prefect

Adrian
Head Boy

Celine
Prefect (2020-2021)

Jackson Merrill
Music Director

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Hartford, CT 06105-2796

www.trinityhartford.org
Phone: 860-527-8133 Fax: 860-527-2863
Email: office@trinityhartford.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

Sundays at 8:00 a.m. (in the Memorial Garden, weather permitting)
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom ([link at trinityhartford.org](http://link.at.trinityhartford.org))

Assisting Clergy:

The Reverend George A. Chien
The Reverend Dr. Frank G. Kirkpatrick
The Right Reverend Andrew D. Smith
The Reverend C. Jon Widing

The Reverend William J. Eakins, Rector Emeritus

The VOICE of Trinity Church
Published in August, then bi-monthly, September to May,
for Trinity's members and Friends

Edited by Katherine S. Wilson

Reminders . . .

- While the warm weather continues, the Memorial Garden will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Mid-day prayer is offered via Zoom at 12 noon on Thursdays. If you would like to participate, log in at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/597938892?pwd=alBXYXo5ckpLVFc3bEhVUjlJcmdzUT09>. This is a standing meeting; the link will remain the same through September 10.

Sanctuary Stitchers Gathering via Zoom

The Sanctuary Stitchers, Trinity's prayer shawl ministry group, has gathered remotely through the summer, and is continuing to meet via Zoom on the Saturdays of August 29, September 12 and September 26 from 10-11 a.m. We meet for prayer, fellowship and knitting, crocheting or other portable crafting. The group creates prayer shawls, lap robes and baby blankets, and members are currently working on blankets to be included in placement packs for children being placed in emergency foster care.

All those who enjoy creating for the benefit of others are welcome. Please contact me (860-243-0020 or pennypearson@comcast.net) if you would like to join any of these Zoom gatherings so that I can make sure you have the needed information.

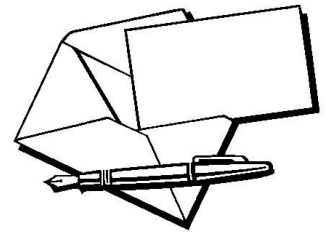
— Penny Pearson
for the Parish Care Ministries

A Note of Thanks from Our Treasurer

Treasurer Casey Rousseau would like to thank our members for being faithful in keeping up their financial pledge payments during the ongoing pandemic. Their generosity has given the parish the necessary flexibility to manage its obligations through this challenging time. For those making their pledge payments and other donations by check, Casey also asks for continuing patience, as checks are now being deposited to the parish accounts biweekly rather than weekly.

A Letter from Tanzania

This summer, Heather Kramer received a letter from the Right Reverend Elias Chakupewa, Bishop of the Diocese of Tabora, Tanzania, with an update on the students at St. Peter's School. Some of the students at St. Peter's are from our partner church, Holy Trinity Parish in Mbugani, Tabora, and attend school on scholarships funded by Trinity Church.



Dear Heather and all the friends at Trinity Church,

Greetings from Tabora in Tanzania. It is my hope that you are well protected from the COVID-19. Here in Tanzania we are quite well and we are no longer thinking about COVID-19 anymore! Life is moving to normal and we now working on our usual schedule and we call it post-COVID-19 period.

The schools from kindergarten to Universities have resumed their normal routine moving according to their time table with filling the gap of three months lost during the COVID-19. Currently we have about 140 students and 10 Bible students makes the total number of students at St. Peter's School to be 150. Thank you so much for your tremendous support towards our children and also our school (No students No school).

However, I must tell you that though we think there is no COVID-19 in Tanzania the government is still insisting observing to all the measures put across by the ministry of health. Our Children have to be in face masks all the time they are in classes and social distancing is also very important. We need your prayers as the cost of running the school has gone up! We need face masks, water buckets for hand washing, sanitizers etc. Please your prayers are very crucial at this particular time. Take my greetings to our friends, and I am still insisting and making humble appeal to you to come and visit my diocese and my school once the pandemic is gone.

Yours in Christ,

+Elias

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Elias M. Chakupewa
Bishop of Tabora Diocese



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TrinityEpiscopalHartford](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityEpiscopalHartford)**

Trinity Academy Summer Update

For the greater part of the 2019-2020 school year, Trinity Academy was operating as usual and everyone was enjoying every minute of it! Then, on March 13, everything changed due to COVID-19.



Our school was physically closed and our students were now learning online daily with their teachers via Google Classroom.

We have always worried about our students being fed, but now we were even more concerned. We were grateful to receive several generous donations as well as some COVID-19 grants which allowed us to set up a plan to send Stop & Shop gift cards to our most needy families on a periodic basis. This plan has continued throughout the summer, as several of Trinity Episcopal Church's members and many of their friends continue to help us with this effort!

On a positive note, we were able to hold an outside graduation ceremony in the church parking lot on June 6 for our 14 fourth graders. It was so good to see our students and their families once again. This fall, approximately 90% of these rising fifth graders will be attending our affiliated Nativity Miguel model middle schools – Grace Academy (girls) and Covenant Preparatory (boys). This progression will help to continue our mission to change the cycle of inner-city poverty through intensive academics, social and cultural enrichment, and nurture through middle

school, high school, and, we hope, college for these students.

As we have previously reported, the COVID-19 crisis also caused Trinity Academy to cancel its annual signature fundraiser, The Excellence Gala. This event usually brings in about 20% of our operating funds. There were several weeks in late March/early April when we worried about how we could finish this fiscal year in good standing and reopen in the fall. Well, miracles do happen! Our amazing supporters once again stepped in and we were able to finish our fiscal year on June 30 on a high note. This proved to all of us that Trinity Academy is stronger than ever!

The first day of school for 2020-2021 will be August 31. However, due to the lingering uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, our students will start the school year online, learning via Google Classroom for five hours each day with their classroom teachers. We hope to physically reopen school on October 6, by which time we hope to have a better read as to how safe it will be for our students and staff to come back to campus. Grace Academy and Covenant Preparatory School have similar plans. The health of our staff, students and their families are of the utmost importance to us. We currently have 40 students enrolled – we are looking forward to seeing their bright faces!

*– Donna Colliton
Executive Director of
Administration and Development
for Trinity Academy*

Trinity Academy Needs

Last year at this time, we were busy collecting back-to-school supplies for Trinity Academy. A lot has changed in the past few months, so we won't collect backpacks and school supplies as we did last year. But it is almost fall, and Trinity Academy will begin the school year remotely on August 31, and return to in-person classes on October 6. You can help Trinity Academy students continue their phenomenal growth and learning in this difficult time. Here are two ways you can help:

- 1) School supplies are still needed, even though we can't put them in brand new backpacks. If you'd like to help with school supplies, you can send a check to Trinity Academy, 120 Sigourney Street, Hartford, 06105 and put "School Supplies" in the memo line. Or, go onto the Trinity Academy Website – www.trinityday.org – and click on the **Donate** button.
- 2) As mentioned in the article to the left, many – about 40% – of Trinity Academy students live in families that experience food insecurity. You can help by sending a check to Trinity Academy, 120 Sigourney Street, Hartford, 06105; put "Food Security" in the memo line. Your gift will be used for the Academy's grocery store gift card program to help these families.

Thank you for your generosity!

Vestry Notes from the June and July Meetings

Father Norman MacLeod opened the June Vestry meeting with a devotion on the first chapter of the Book of Acts.

The June meeting was attended by both the newly elected members-at-large and four new “retirees” who will be participating in the selection of our new Rector. Warden Martha Freimuth reported that the three candidates will come to Trinity for interviews. They will be given a tour of the campus by the wardens, then will lead the Vestry in worship, share a meal with Vestry, and participate in an interview. All events will follow strict COVID-19 guidelines, including wearing of masks and keeping social distance.

Father Norman, who will be leaving us following Zoom worship on June 28, explained that he will use his remaining time here setting up the preaching rotation for Sundays and Thursdays through the remainder of the summer. He also reported that the long-time tenant who occupied the apartment over the office space in the Parish House has moved out. The apartment needs considerable work to comply with building codes and will remain vacant for the foreseeable future.

Warden Tom Oberholtzer is chairing the Task Force on Re-Gathering, a group of eight parishioners working out the plans for reopening Trinity’s buildings and re-gathering for worship. They are currently

planning that services of Morning Prayer will be offered in the Memorial Garden at 8 a.m. on July 19 and July 26. The church offices will remain closed to the public, as will the sanctuary. The task force gathered feedback from parishioners as to their willingness to return to in-person worship at this time. 75% of respondents reported that someone in their home is in the high risk category for COVID. Some people are ready to return. The task force is also considering how to allow 12-step groups to use the building space safely.

Even after we return to in-person worship, we will continue to have an online presence so that people who cannot make it to services can still participate in our worship. The Vestry authorized expenditure of Capital Campaign funds for technical upgrades in support of live-streaming services.

Warden Tom Oberholtzer also reported that Trinity’s grounds had endured some vandalism, with several plants being stolen both from within the garden and from plots outside the gates on Sigourney Street. Other area churches have also experienced similar vandalism in the past few weeks. The police have been notified and will increase their presence in the neighborhood.

Encouraged by Father Norman’s recent sermons on the topic of systemic racism, Vestry held a discussion about how Trinity might work on this matter. The

Choir School of Hartford students crafted a statement about the need to overcome racism. Several ideas were offered as potential ways to follow up, including participating in a community organization such as the Civilian Review Board, exploring the role of the Episcopal Church in slavery, reading books on racism (several were suggested). It was broadly agreed that this topic must be part of every Vestry meeting.

Although Vestry usually does not meet in July, it was felt that in the absence of a priest in charge, there should be a brief meeting. Martha Freimuth opened the meeting, held July 21, with devotions, following An Order of Worship for the Evening from the Book of Common Prayer.

Warden Tom Oberholtzer reported that 15 people attended the first in-person worship in the Memorial Garden on July 19, and it went well. July 26 being Jackson Merrill’s last Sunday, Jack will play both services live in the nave. Members of the Choir School and Trinity Choir will attend the in-person service to say goodbye to Jack and Allison. It was agreed that in-person services will continue in August and September, weather permitting, unless the state experiences a surge of the virus.

Tom also reported that the windows in the Undercroft will be replaced soon. It is hoped that this will greatly reduce the

Continued on Page 11

Trinity Forms Task Force for Racial Justice

Trinity Episcopal Church held its first forum on racial justice after the 10 a.m. Morning Prayer service on July 12. There was no advice, no cross talk, just deep listening to each other about the legacy of racial injustice in our lives. We heard about the impact of racism on ourselves and our children and heard the emotional stories of parish members who continue to experience police violence and other forms of systemic racism today. We listened and we learned.

After this forum we reached the place where we asked ourselves as a community, “OK, so what next, and how do we move this conversation forward?”

During its July meeting, the Vestry decided to form a parish Task Force for Racial Justice (“TFRJ”). We are seeking participation from all interested parish members. **We welcome and strongly encourage the youth of the parish to join the task force.** Preliminary objectives of the TFRJ are:

- 1) To celebrate Trinity’s diverse membership and ensure that all persons are welcomed and supported, including in their personal struggle with pervasive racism and injustice in our society.
- 2) To learn from the resources of the ECCT Ministry for Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation and to become active participants in that ministry.

- 3) To develop our task force as a team of parishioners dedicated to working for racial justice within our parish, our communities and the nation, as a way to put our faith in action.

Four Trinity members attended the ECCT August 1 quarterly meeting of the Ministry for Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation, and were energized by the many ongoing efforts in the diocese. There are many resources on the ECCT Website (www.episcopalct.org) regarding this ministry if you would be interested in more information about their work.

Please look for more information to come in the near future about the Task Force, including how to join us in this work.

- Heather Kramer

Cycle of Prayer for September

September 6

Carmen Belgrave & Laquisha and Anthony Springer
Joy & Basil Bennett
Mavis Bennett

September 13

William, Karen, Chris, Jordan & Kami Bernard
Elizabeth Bickley
Barbara Blackford

September 20

Eleanor Blake
Suzanne Blancaflor & Boo Morton
Dorcas & Julius Blanchard

September 27

Claire, Jerry & Chivelle Blissett
Fred, Elaine, Advetus, Leroy, Fred Jr., Fredlane & Levi Bohlen
Dianne Bowens-Waller

Resources for Learning More about Racial Justice

The following recommendations for follow-up reading were mentioned at the July 12 forum on racial justice:

- *How To Be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi
- *Waking Up White* by Debbie Irving
- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander
- *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo
- *A Black History Reader* and other books by Dr. Claud Anderson

A good source for these books and others on the topic of racial justice is Key Bookstore (keybookstore.com), a Black-owned online bookstore whose headquarters are in Hartford.

Other recommendations:

- “13th”, a documentary on the U.S. prison system, with a focus on racial inequality (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8>).
- “American Son” (Netflix movie)

What's Happening with The Choir School of Hartford? Quite a Lot!

Fall Semester Schedule—An In-person & Zoom Hybrid

The Choir School of Hartford will be holding COVID modified rehearsals this fall. I will be leading these rehearsals as Director of Music pro tem for the Choir School while Trinity continues the search for a new Director of Music Ministries. In consultation with the COVID Re-Gathering Task Force and the Wardens of the Vestry, I have developed a plan for the Choristers to resume their rehearsal schedule safely and in compliance with COVID protocols as set up by the CDC, the state of Connecticut, and the ECCT. I met with a couple of the Choristers and they felt strongly that we needed to gather together and make the most out of a difficult situation.

There will be no singing. The in-person rehearsal each week will be a bell rehearsal on Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. starting September 10. These rehearsals will be held in the Memorial Garden when the weather permits; otherwise, they will take place in the Nave of the church, where social distancing will be easy to maintain. The Choristers enjoy ringing the bells and will continue their learning using the bells instead of their voices. This will be new to some of them, and it will be exciting to help them develop this fun way to learn music.

On Tuesdays beginning on September 15, the Choir School will hold 6:00 p.m. Zoom

rehearsals in which the choristers will practice their vocal skills, and work on music theory, music history and other components of their workbooks. These rehearsals will last for 30 to 40 minutes.

From time to time we hope to share the bell music in Trinity's worship services. The Choristers want to continue their work of offering music to enrich and support our worship.

– Enid Oberholtzer

Director of Music pro tem for
The Choir School of Hartford

Summer Zoom Gatherings And Two New Videos

During the summer the Choristers met via Zoom once a week to work on their skills a little and to stay connected with one another. One project that was a lot of fun was led by Jonathan Reuning-Scherer, who is Director of Music at Emanuel Lutheran Church, where the Choir School normally sings once a month. Jonathan worked with Jackson Merrill and the Choristers to produce two music videos, one of "Steal Away" and the other of the *Magnificat* by George Dyson. It was amazing to watch how Jonathan put all the components together – video, voices, and organ! We all have a treat to look forward to when the project is completed and the videos are available to be shared with our congregation.

Course Week 2020

Following a great response to its annual recruitment mailing, The Choir School of Hartford has added five new members. The new choristers come from Wethersfield, Bloomfield, Hartford, and West Hartford.

With the annual recruitment effort completed, Susan Post, the new President of the board of The Choir School of Hartford, and Enid Oberholtzer, Director pro tem for the Choir School, talked about ways in which the Choir School could move forward during the COVID pandemic. They felt it important to hold a virtual Choir Course Week during the third week of August, when the annual in-person course was originally planned.

The Choristers met via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, August 17-21, for about an hour every day. Each Chorister was paired with a buddy to work with in the morning on the daily projects and then had the afternoon to develop the project for discussion the following morning. The Zoom discussions were facilitated by one pair of buddies each day. On Sunday, August 23, the Choristers will attend the 8:00 a.m. service in the Memorial Garden to talk about all their projects and share the results of their work. While COVID crisis restrictions mean it's not safe for our choristers to sing right now, they are eager to share what they've created and learned with the rest of the congregation!

COVID-19 Protocols For Trinity's Campus

As you will see elsewhere in this issue of *The Voice*, the Task Force on Re-Gathering has been working for several months to identify how best to re-open Trinity's campus for in-person worship and activities. While we've taken small steps toward that end, we have not fully re-opened our buildings to the public. Our office is still officially closed. Most of our staff members are working primarily from home, entering the office spaces only when absolutely necessary to complete their tasks.

This is not to say that nothing is happening on campus, as you will also read elsewhere. During this time of reduced activity at Trinity, contractors have completed several large and small repair and capital improvement projects. Trinity Academy staff and teachers are also on campus from time to time preparing for school to start.

We ask that *everyone* visiting our campus for any reason follow these protocols:

- 1) Let the church office know when you would like to be on campus. You can email office@trinityhartford.org or leave a message at (860) 527-8133. You will receive a call back to finalize arrangements. Please don't come to the church until you've gotten the "all clear."
- 2) When you arrive, please sign in. There are sign-in sheets and pens at the Farmington

Avenue entrance and the front door of the church office.

- 3) Please use the hand sanitizer located next to the sign-in sheets.
- 4) Please wear a mask throughout your visit. If you forget to bring one, masks are available next to the sign-in sheet.

The purpose of these protocols is to ensure, as much as possible, that our staff, our members and our contractors are safe from exposure to the coronavirus. Our campus is large and it is possible to practice the recommended social distancing in such a spacious setting, but only if everyone honors the request to follow the same protocols as our staff have been following during the pandemic.

The Search Is On!

Trinity's search for a new Director of Music Ministries and Organist is well underway. The position was advertised in numerous places, and we received applications from far and wide, from many candidates with highly desirable credentials.

The Search Committee has reviewed all the applications and will conduct first interviews via Zoom with the strongest candidates during the end of August. Then the field will be narrowed to the top three or four candidates. These finalists will come to Trinity in late September for a second interview, this time in person, with the Search Committee and the Rector, and will also do an audition on organ and piano. Safety protocols will be closely observed. The Committee is excited about the possibilities ahead for music at Trinity!

Good-bye from the Merrills

Jack Merrill, our Director of Music Ministries since 2017, left Trinity at the end of July to pursue graduate studies at the University of Michigan. He sent this farewell note to the parish:

Dear Trinity Family:

It has been such unique and formative experience to serve as Organist and Director of Music Ministries at Trinity Church. I have been blessed by my work with the choristers, the Trinity Choir, Trinity Academy, and the clergy. I reflect often on the many beautiful liturgies and musical offerings we have created together and will hold those memories in my heart.

Allison and I are grateful for your warm welcome in 2017 and your good wishes now as we leave for our next adventure. We have made several friendships while at Trinity that are sure to last our whole lives. We will keep all of you in our prayers and hearts wherever we go.

Love,
Jack

Welcoming the Rev. Dee Littlepage – In a Pandemic????

The final step defined by the ECCT Rector Transition Process is a warm welcome reception for the new Rector and family. The Hospitality Committee of Trinity's Transition Team had



envisioned making Goodwin Hall look festive, with decorations

and flowers, and special refreshments for the big day we've been awaiting for so long. All of that was before we ever heard of COVID-19, of course.

Instead of a joyous, full celebration, we'll still be "tiptoeing" back to worshipping together when Dee arrives for her first Sunday with us on September 20. Assuming that it's still a permitted gathering, we expect to have our regular 8:00 a.m. service in the Memorial Garden that day, and our regular 10:00 a.m. service via Zoom. It's going to be frustrating, though, to have to gather in this way when what we want to do instead is to embrace our new Rector and her wife, Kristen, to introduce ourselves, and to show them how good we are at celebrating God's goodness!

We're still working out the details of how each of us can spend a few minutes chatting with Dee in the weeks after her arrival so she'll begin to feel like part of us. One option we're hoping to offer is small gatherings, by appointment, in

the Memorial Garden. We will follow all the COVID-19 guidelines for safe interactions. Knowing some folks will be unable to join us safely in person, we're also figuring out the logistics of small group meetings with Dee via Zoom. Please be patient while the Hospitality Committee, the Task Force on Re-Gathering and the Vestry work out the best way to welcome Mother Dee to Trinity Church.

Vestry Notes

Continued from Page 7

amount of water that gets in during rainstorms.

Treasurer Casey Rousseau reported that most people are keeping their pledges up to date, so our finances have not so far suffered from the economic downturn caused by the pandemic. Warden Martha Freimuth reminded Vestry that responsibility for our Annual Financial Appeal belongs to the Vestry. Ideas were discussed, and Cathy Rowe, Althea Francis and Kevin Rennie volunteered to assist in putting together a fall campaign.

Vestry members discussed how moved they were by the July 12 Forum on how racism affects the lives of Trinity members. Vestry voted to establish a Task Force on Racial Justice to begin to bring some focus to Trinity's response to this "second pandemic." Heather Kramer volunteered to research the ECCT Task Force on Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation.

Re-Gathering Report

Your Re-Gathering Task Force has been meeting weekly all summer long to plan and execute protocols for worship in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. To that end the following actions have been taken:

- The 8:00 am Memorial Garden Services have been resumed on a regular basis. These services are now held rain or shine, with worship moved to the Nave in the event of inclement weather.
- A cleaning protocol has been established for both outside services and eventual services in the Nave. This protocol has been shared with Trinity Academy, and has been adopted for their use as well.
- Weekly assessments are made on the continuation of services and meetings, with attention given to state, CDC and ECCT guidelines and the latest statistics.
- A target date has been set for in-person services in the Nave to resume Sunday, October 4.
- Equipment has been ordered to allow for live streaming of services from the Nave, with a target date of mid-October.
- The decision has been made to continue on-line services of some definition once in-person worship has resumed.
- Evaluations continue on how to best accommodate the 12-Step programs long supported by Trinity. Some will resume meeting on a limited basis in the Memorial Garden.

Outreach at Trinity



Summer News from Ahli Hospital

On July 9, I participated in a Zoom call with Suhaila Terazi, the director of the Ahli Hospital in Gaza. I was invited because Trinity has supported this hospital for a long time, and in the past I was a member of the board of AFEDJ (American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem). My personal connection began in 2005 on a trip to the Holy Land with Bishop Tom Shaw of Massachusetts. We were able to enter Gaza (a very difficult thing), meet Suhaila and tour the hospital, a small but amazing place.

The director of AFEDJ, John Lent, asked Suhaila several questions, and here are a few takeaways from her talk:

Gaza is a city totally blocked off by the Israelis. 50% are unemployed; more would like to work, but there is nothing there to do. 80% of the population need help in some form. Ahli is the oldest Christian hospital there, and it receives no government support. However, the hospital serves everyone. No one is turned away, and there is no armed guard at the gate. Suhaila is one of about 1,000 Christians in Gaza. She could have left at any time, but does not even consider doing so.

Conditions have worsened in Gaza since 2007, when Hamas took over the local government.

During this time, there have been three wars and hence the siege. Nobody and nothing goes in or out. Electricity is scarce, and is on for only a few hours a day.

John asked about the coronavirus, and on this front there was good news: because the city is almost entirely cut off, it is like an island. Through July 9, there had been 72 cases, one death and 63 recovered. Gaza has over 60,000 people living in a very small space in a refugee camp and a total population of 2 million. The virus could be devastating there.

However, other medical issues need to be addressed: cancer patients cannot just go to Jerusalem for treatment, because multiple permits are needed to do so. The goal is to obtain a radiation machine and establish a radiation department in the hospital. Cancer affects not only the patient's health, but also social and emotional wellbeing. Some cancers are taboo, so a patient with cancer is rejected by family, instead of supported.

Suhaila stressed that the political situation is very complicated, but the people need hope and to know that they are not forgotten. That is something we can give them by our continued support.

– Kate Smith,
for the Outreach Team

Neighborhood Group Needs Trinity Representative

Trinity needs a representative to the South Marshall Street Interfaith Coalition. This group has been meeting the first Tuesday of the month at 8 a.m. via Zoom. Its purpose is to consider ways to help the residents of this street, which is just blocks away from the church.

If you are interested in being Trinity's representative, please contact Lily Miller at millbabins@aol.com or 860-916-1994.

Trinity's Support of Loaves & Fishes Continues During Pandemic

Loaves and Fishes shut down its in-person lunch program in the middle of March; food is now being distributed in Pantry Bags to try to help clients get through each week. From April through August, Trinity donated \$500 a month (up from our initial \$250/month in lieu of our purchasing food and cooking a meal). If this amount is not sustainable, we will have to cut back to a \$250/month donation.

If you would like to make a contribution to help us continue our monthly donation to Loaves and Fishes over the months to come, please send a check (made out to Trinity Church with "Loaves and Fishes" in the memo line) to the parish office. Individuals can also donate canned goods directly to L&F, but call first (860-524-1730) to determine the current situation and needs.

More on Outreach

Five Talents Transforms Lives and Builds Resilience In Communities Around the World

For years, Martha lived in make-shift camps with her four children after war forced them to flee their village in South Sudan. But this mother's story changed after someone invited her to a Five Talents savings group. Here, Martha learned to read, write and count, and eventually learned basic business skills so she could start her own small business.

Five Talents is a faith-based international organization which facilitates microenterprise development in the most desperate and vulnerable areas around the world – places like South Sudan, Myanmar, Burundi and Bolivia. Five Talents was born at the Lambeth Conference in 1998 as a means for churches to respond wisely to the realities of global poverty, and takes its name from the biblical Parable of the Talents (which teaches that we should all work to multiply the resources we are given).

Encouraged by church leaders from around the world, the founders worked to guard the dignity of the poor while assisting them to create jobs and opportunities to lift themselves out of poverty.

In regions which have often been ravaged by years of violent conflict and famine, there are entire communities in extreme poverty that have nowhere to turn

for help. It is into these places that Five Talents brings hope – empowering men, women and families to find a sustainable path out of poverty via business entrepreneurship.

Savings groups are the backbone of this ministry. Five Talents partners with local churches to form small groups of neighbors who meet, learn and save together. It may seem surprising, but even people living in the most extreme poverty can save a little each week. By pooling their funds, these savings groups can offer loans which allow members to start their own businesses, providing a foundation for economic development within each community. In 21 years, Five Talents participants have launched more than 40,000 new businesses. 80% of participants are women. Across all programs, 95% of loans are repaid on time.

Today, Martha runs a small shop selling household goods. And her family lives in a house she built using her profits.

"I am now self-sustaining and not dependent on relief supplies. I'm an example to others of what it means to be self-sustainable."

For more information, please visit the organization's Website at www.FiveTalents.org

Virtual Walk Against Hunger Set for Last Week of Summer

The 37th Annual Foodshare Walk Against Hunger will take place virtually from September 13 - 19, 2020. Online registration and fundraising are open and will remain open until then.

Participants are encouraged to find their own 1.5 mile course to walk to raise awareness of, and resources for, the issue of food insecurity in Hartford and Tolland counties. Funds raised from the Walk help support not only Foodshare but also the partner programs that serve the growing number of people in Greater Hartford who struggle with hunger.

While the annual walk cannot take place with participants together in person this year, the 2020 week-long virtual event will continue the traditions of fun and community building, with some special surprises all week long.

If anyone would like to form a Trinity team for the 2020 Walk Against Hunger, please contact Lily Miller at 860-916-1994 or millbabins@aol.com. You can also sign up individually on the Website, www.foodshare.org.

Foodshare has long been an important part of solving hunger in the Hartford area. Now, with the effects of COVID-19, Foodshare's resources have been severely stretched; at its drive-through distributions at Rentschler Field alone, more than 135,000 households have been served over the past four months. Anything we can do to raise funds will be much appreciated.

Introducing Our New Rector!

The Reverend Dorothea (Dee) Littlepage will become the thirteenth Rector of Trinity Church, Hartford, on September 14. In the meantime, warden Martha Freimuth interviewed Mother Dee so we can all get to know a little about our new rector before she joins us in Hartford. Here is an excerpted version of that interview.

Martha: Tell us a little bit about how you got to the point you're at. When did you decide to become a priest and how did you make that decision?

Dee: The priest decision was made in college, around my sophomore or junior year. I think it was kind of a life-long journey to get to that point. I grew up in the South in a Baptist church, and I loved it; I loved particularly engaging with Scripture. I would talk back sometimes to my teachers, asking questions and trying to engage with the text. It was an environment in which that wasn't necessarily very welcome, and that never really sat well with me. And then in high school I came out as gay, and that also didn't really sit well, so I was in a place when I went to college questioning where my faith was going to go. I never stopped believing in God, but I stopped believing in the Church, and I wasn't sure that the Church was a place for me. Then one of my friends invited me to the Episcopal church, just so he would have a friend with him. I was blown away by that first service. At the Eucharist there was a moment when the priest elevated the Host, the incense was floating up and the light was coming through the windows, and I was in tears. And I thought, "What is this that I'm feeling?" So I kept going back, and got confirmed at the end of my first year in college. Then in my sophomore year the priest asked me if I'd ever considered the priesthood. I said, "No; I'm going to be a lay person." But more and more she said, "Pay attention to how your heart feels when you're in worship and where that's leading." And I said "Fine; I'll pray about it" – and that's a dangerous thing to do, because sometimes you get an answer you don't want. So I started to pray about it, and felt more and more a sense of call to ordained ministry in the Church. After I graduated I started the discernment process, and entered Virginia Seminary a couple of years after my undergraduate years.

When you decided to seek a new call, what attracted you to Trinity Church?

Wow; so much! There's the music program; that was something that was really exciting to me – I think music is an integral part of worship. Also the articulation of a sense of connection to the community around the church. There was a part of the profile that said "We like each other, but we're not a social club; we like to do good things not just out of the goodness of our heart, but because we're Christians." The sense of welcome and openness and figuring out what it means to be a Christian in the world got me increasingly excited about joining a community that is asking those questions – "What is God saying to us as people of faith today? How do we live into that faith in our work, family and community?"

You've been in the Roxbury-Dorset Mission Hub. Tell us what you did and learned there that you're going to bring to Hartford with you.

Sure. The Diocese of Massachusetts decided to fund mission hubs, collaborations of two or more Episcopal churches to do mission. In the Dorchester and Roxbury neighborhoods, where I worked, there are five Episcopal churches neighborhoods within five miles of each other. They had done some worship together but had never really worked together. The idea of the Roxbury-Dorset Mission "Power in Community" Hub was that together the churches could do more than they could do separately. Our focus areas became the senior population and immigrant engagement, and we spent five years creating different programs and building relationships to explore those two areas of interest. I was the director of that, and managed the programmatic operation and the vision for it. I got to worship at four of the churches, a different church every Sunday, so I'm really excited about being in one place at Trinity! It was fun to get to see how worship was expressed in different ways, to meet the people and figure out how to build bridges between the churches. That's one thing I'll be bringing to Hartford – bridge-building, that sense that we can't as one individual congregation do everything by ourselves. So how do we build relationships both with other Episcopal *(Continued on Page 15)*

(Continued from Page 14) churches, other faith communities and community partners in order to more fully live into the vision of a world where no one is hungry, no one goes unhoused, people's needs are met, people feel connected and loved? How do we partner with other folks to do that, and what is our particular role? Those are the kinds of questions I learned to ask at the Mission Hub, and that I'll bring with me to Trinity.

What are you especially looking forward to in Hartford?

Besides just being there, I'm looking forward to getting to know the nuances and wider breadth of the community, so that I can start to figure out where the different flavors and rhythms are, where folks' passions are. I'm really excited about getting to know more of people's stories; I love getting to know what makes people tick. I'm interested in learning about the Asylum Hill neighborhood – the history of it, as well as what it is now – because I think that initial learning is going to provide the foundation for us to begin to figure out together where we go. Right now I'm most excited about that initial learning of the lay of the land and who people are, and getting to be a part of the community. What I missed the most in the Mission Hub was the longevity of relationships. I'd see people once a month, so it was hard to have the breadth and depth of relationships that I really like, and I missed the opportunity to design and think critically about worship. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to think about worship and work with the community to figure out what worship looks like together.

Tell us about your family.

I'm been married to Kristen Williams for a little over two years; we've been together about eight years. Our dog, Caleb, is a Yorkie, who's seven now, and likes to hang out with me at the church.

Kristen – tell us a little about you!

Kristen: I grew up outside of Philadelphia, in King of Prussia. I came to Massachusetts to go to school – Williams College and then law school at Boston College. I'm now an attorney with Community Legal Aid, which serves the five Western counties in Massachusetts, basically helping indigent clients in any sort of civil need. I personally practice disability benefits and unemployment benefits. Right now I'm working from home; at some point I'll go back to work in the office in Worcester, and eventually look for a job in the Springfield office with the same organization.

What do you like to do when you're not working?

Dee: Bike riding is one of the things we really love to do together. Bike riding and hiking – outdoor stuff – are the things we most enjoy. Also mindless television; we enjoy dissecting the paint colors and cabinet pull choices on HGTV. During the week, it's mindless television; on the weekends, it's outdoors.

Dee, we hear you play alto sax – tell us about that.

I've played since middle school, and I played in the jazz band in college. I haven't played a lot lately, but I have played a couple of times in worship, for special occasions.

How do you envision getting to know people in a safe, non-chaotic way? What can we do to make it easier for us to get to know both of you, and how can we welcome you and tell you who we are?

I think small group Zoom meetings are going to be a really great way for me and for Kristen to get to know people. I'd be interested in different small groups from families and different areas of ministry in the church. It would also be a real treat to get to know people face-to-face in the Memorial Garden.

How do you envision your office schedule at Trinity?

My plan is to have regular times in the office. I'm thinking Monday, Tuesday and Thursday I'll be in the office, and Wednesday will be my reading, writing and study day, although I'll be available if something comes up. Friday will be my day off, when I'll deal with emergencies only, but otherwise be off.

You can watch the whole interview with Mother Dee at our Website, trinityhartford.org.