



REV. SUZANNE WADE, Priest in Charge

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TRINITY CHAPEL

184 CENTER RD. SHIRLEY, MA 01464

VESTRY MEMBERS

SENIOR WARDEN: Lyn Doran,

JUNIOR WARDEN: Stephanie Hooper

TREASURER: Jim Spall

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Donna King

CLERK: Karen Akins, Betty Mahon, Mary Beth

Wade, Marge Halloran, Sherley Thom. Jim Spall,

Nan Gulliver

APRIL 2022

. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ~ 2 Corinthians 5:17

For early Christians, baptism was a new beginning. Few were baptized as infants: most came to the font as adults, having spent a significant period of time as “Christians-in-training.” Baptism was full-immersion, and the baptized entered the pool naked. Submerged fully under water, they emerged gasping for breath, like a newborn. They exited on the other side of the font and were clothed in new white clothing, symbolic of entering the new life of Christ.

That new life brought with it new roles. St. Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13 the spiritual gifts that emerged among the baptized – wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, ecstatic religious experience and those who could explain those experiences. He compared this newly gifted community with a body, one where different parts performed different essential functions, but all were necessary for the entire community to experience the fullness of life promised in baptism.

That promise is still given to us in baptism today. Although most of us do not remember our own baptisms, we have been present when the church welcomed new members and have joined with them in the baptismal covenant. In promising to proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ, to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to strive for justice and peace, we commit to being part of the work God is doing in the world – to participating in the “ministry of the baptized.”

Just as with the people of Corinth, that ministry manifests in a variety of ways; no one is left out. “Ministry” is not the sole province of the preacher or the teacher, but of all the baptized, all of whom bring gifts and abilities to the work God has called them to. Together, those gifts uniquely equip them to join with God in God’s work of renewal and reconciliation in their particular time and place. And all those gifts are needed – the church cannot truly be the Body of Christ in the world if **all** its members are not incorporated into the work of ministry.

In the next few months, the people of Trinity will begin a process of discerning God’s call to them in this particular time and place. That discernment begins in a world very different from the one most of us grew up in, technologically, culturally, and religiously. We find ourselves in a post-pandemic landscape where the church activities fondly remembered from our own youth are no longer sought out by busy families and regular church attendance is the exception, not the norm. Yet there is still deep spiritual hunger and a longing for community, perhaps now more than ever before. There are still people who need to hear the Good News of God’s love. But we cannot simply wait for them to find their way to us: like the Apostle Paul and the early church, we must go to them with the Good News of God in Christ.

For those of us formed in a world where sharing the Good News meant warmly welcoming visitors on Sunday morning, this can feel overwhelming and intimidating. We were not taught to be evangelists; indeed, New Englanders tend to view people who speak openly about faith in Jesus with suspicion. How can we be called to share Good News with people who have not asked for it?

Suzanne's Message continued:

But God is always doing a new thing. God is always working to renew creation and draw all people to Godself. This is far from the first changed landscape God has encountered. We may not know how to find our way through it, but God does. And God has already sent us the gifts that we need to succeed – because God always knew we would find ourselves in this wilderness, dependent upon God for a way forward.

Our task is to listen for God's voice and God's guidance to discover it. It will take all of us – preachers, teachers, administrators, healers, builders, and friends – to discover it. But God is with us, whether we are surrounded by the whirlwind or weeping in front of the empty tomb. We need only remember our baptism and claim the new and abundant life in Christ promised in water and the Holy Spirit.

Your Sister in Christ,

Suzanne

HOLY WEEK



SCHEDULE

Sunday April 10th - 11:00 am - **Palm Sunday** and **Reading of the Passion**
After Church — 12:00 Altar Guild Meeting

Thursday April 14th - 7:00 pm - **Maundy Thursday Service**
 including washing of hands and stripping of the altar.

Friday April 15th - 3:30 pm - **Good Friday Service**
 of readings, music, and meditation.

Saturday April 16th - 4:00 pm - **Family Easter Vigil Service**
 at St. Mark's, 75 Cold Spring Road, Westford

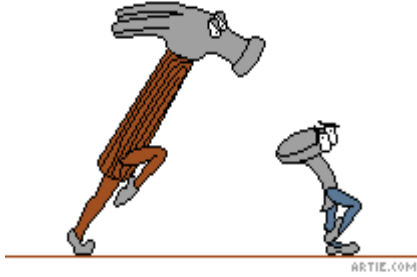
Sunday April 17th - 11:00 am - **Festive Easter Service**

Saturday, April 23rd
 Vestry Day Away @ Stephanie & Chet's house



PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES,

March 28, 2022



PRESENT: Nan Gulliver; Nancy Shepherd; Meredith Marcinkewicz; Jean Reed; Lyn Doran; Sharron Pothier; Chet; Stephanie

PROPERTY MEETING, MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022

PROPERTY UPDATES:

1. The restoration on the windows in Trinity building is progressing. Fred Shoemaker has been paid an installment of \$1000.00 (Note- Fred has since been paid another \$1000. He will receive the final \$1500.00 after he has finished restoring and washing all the windows in the Trinity Chapel building. It is hoped that people will continue to adopt these windows at \$100.00 a window, but an anonymous donor has agreed to pay any of the bill that is still owed after Fred has finished.)
2. The Property Committee will meet with the painter, Bill Lombardi, on Thursday, April 7, to talk about painting the outside of the rectory the first week of May. We have raised the \$13,000 owed for painting the outside of the rectory. However, we need to raise additional money for painting the outside of the Chapel building. Bill has offered to reduce his original estimate for painting the outside of the Chapel building. We can discuss this further on April 7 th when we meet with Bill.
3. The oil tank in the Chapel is old and probably should be replaced. A new oil tank will cost \$ 3,500.00, which the vestry will discuss at its next meeting.
4. Three Fund Raisers to help raise money for painting the Chapel building are planned:
 - a. **May 7- Trinity Chapel will participate in the Town Wide Yard Sale.** There will also be raffle items to bid on. Chet and Stephanie will ask the Bull Run to donate a raffle item. Other parishioners are also encouraged to donate raffle items or gift certificates to raffle.
 - b. **June 4- Shirley Fest on the Common-** Shirley parishioners will sell homemade pies at the pie table and will sponsor a Raffle Table at which there will be various theme baskets to raffle, such as Garden Baskets, Children's Baskets, etc.
 - c. **June 25- The Trinity Chapel Annual Strawberry Festival**
This event is a major money- maker and draws a lot of people. This year we will also try to provide more games and grab bag items for children to help attract more families to the festival.
5. Stephanie will ask Bret to be sure each week to vacuum the Chapel, including the altar area, the Chapel floor and under the pew kneelers. She will also remind him to vacuum the floor in Shepherd Hall and empty the trash baskets, weekly, in addition to cleaning the bathrooms.
6. Lyn will contact Bret about getting the ladder out of the granary, so that the Altar Guild can change the hangings behind the altar for Easter week and Easter.
7. Meredith will ask Bret to fix the baptismal font.

8. The Property Committee would like the vestry to consider asking Bret and his wife to pay for their use of utilities at the rectory.

Memorial Garden

Jean Reed asked whether we knew what had happened to the wooden swing which had been in the Memorial Garden. There was also discussion about possibly adding a wooden swing in memory of Janice Yancey.

TRINITY CHAPEL WEBSITE:

Meredith was praised for the work she has done on the Trinity Chapel Website. A new couple has looked at this website and as a result will be coming to Trinity this Sunday.

EASTER FLOWERS:

Donations for Easter flowers need to be given to Nancy Shepherd.

NEXT PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING: MONDAY, APRIL 11, AT 9 AM.

Respectively Submitted,

Stephanie Hooper

Suzanne's Priest in Charge Report — April

March was an average month: I responded to multiple requests for pastoral care; celebrated Eucharist four Sundays (with sermons, bulletins & assignment of worship volunteers) and three Tuesdays (no sermon or bulletin) and read Compline five nights a week for four weeks. Significant time was spent in meetings with Trinity's officers and in preparations for the beginning of Trinity's PIC discernment process, working with Meredith Marcinkewicz to plan Holy Week worship, and discussing upcoming COVID precaution changes with Altar Guilds and vestry members. Most emails received responses within 3 days. I spent the last week of March working on writing Holy Week sermons, since I have multiple commitments every day of Holy Week this year and will not have sufficient time to prepare four sermons that week (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday).

In April, the demands on my time escalate significantly, and I expect to have very limited time off, with no day off at all during Holy Week. During Holy Week, I will be staying in a local hotel Thursday-Sunday to enable me to officiate multiple services per day. In the last week of April, I will be at the Diocese Clergy Conference — which is mandatory for clergy — for three days, as well as leading a Saturday retreat for St. Mark's vestry. I am looking forward to self-care and sabbath time in May to spend some time with my family and renew depleted energy.

Suzanne's March Report

Effective May 1, I will be in-person at Trinity Sundays 11-4 and Mondays 9-2. This is approximately 10 hours per week, or quarter-time, which is Trinity's compensation level. (I will also be at St. Mark's Sundays 8-10:30 and Tuesdays 10-5, as well as planned additional time each week in my home office.) During this time I will plan worship, be available for meetings, make pastoral home visits, and be available for pastoral drop-in visits. On Mondays, I will also have lunch at local places in Shirley, as a means of being more visible in the community: if anyone has any recommendations or would like to join me some week, let me know!

Theology at the Tavern resumed on March 16. Next gathering is Wednesday, April 20, 6 p.m. .

Next Pastoral Care Team meeting is Wednesday, April 6 at 10 a.m. to share information about parishioners who are experiencing illness, injury, or otherwise in need of support and prayer. If you know of anyone who is in need of support, please let Nancy Shepherd or I know. If you would like to join us, you may join us either In-person in Shepherd Hall or via Zoom.

I am meeting regularly with Jim Spall to assist him in setting up tools to streamline the treasurer's report and help sort through files. Jim has expressed concern about continuing in this role because of the large time commitment and unpredictable nature of requests. He has, however, indicated willingness to continue if we can streamline our bookkeeping processes, such as establishing a process for requesting checks in advance so he can set aside two days each month to write checks and attend to financial matters. While we cannot completely eliminate unexpected needs, we should strive to avoid same-day calls for check or otherwise expecting him to drop everything to write and deliver a check for a payments that should have been anticipated in advance. We will be working on establishing some written guidelines so everyone is on the same page, and will look forward to discussing them with the vestry.

I met with Helen Daley to discuss the roadmap for Trinity's discernment process. I have shared a number of observations about Trinity with both Helen and Martha, and Helen and I discussed her approach to discernment. I understand there is a meeting scheduled for April 23 with the vestry. It is critical that all vestry members attend: this process is an essential one for Trinity's future.

I met with Lyn Doran to address some concerns that were raised after the last vestry meeting. A reminder: Anyone is welcome to reach out to me and schedule an appointment to speak directly with me at a convenient time. Disagreement is a normal part of church life, and it is best addressed directly, one-to-one, not through third parties. I am aware that those who raised the concerns may not have received the answer they wanted: I invite you to contact me directly to discuss further.

I met with Meredith Marcinkewicz to plan Holy Week services & music.

Completed pre-marital counseling for couple being married at Trinity on June 18.



AFGAN FAMILY MOVING TO LOWELL:

Dear Trinity Friends,

You have heard me talking about a group of area churches who have been planning to support an Afghan refugee family. The Time Has Come!

Three weeks ago, that a family of six refugees will be arriving in Boston on April 21st! Stephanie and Sherley have also attended recent planning discussions. People in the various churches have signed up for a number of responsibilities. We think that a three room apartment has been found in Lowell which would work for them.

It is all exciting and seems to be happening very fast. One sub-group will be getting together furniture for the apartment. Someone will be helping to find jobs. Someone else is putting together a list of needed items - kitchen things, bedding, etc. As in the recent past, I see that as something that Trinity folks could help with, and will provide a signup sheet as soon as the list gets to me. Funds to help with rent will certainly be needed.

I know we are working on painting the rectory and church, but hope some people may have enough to spare to make a donation for the refugee housing as well. I will have further details about such gifts once they are available to me. In addition, The Church of the Good Shepherd in Acton is giving a benefit concert for the family on April 23rd. The tickets are \$20.00. I will have further information about that as well.

The family members are: a mother and father, a 22-year-old daughter who speaks some English, a 16 year-old son who has some physical and medical challenges, and two younger sons. Stephanie may be able to help in the ESL area if she can do it by zoom. And Sherley hopes to be of use with school questions, since she works in Lowell. Do ask me any questions you may have. I know we are all concerned about Ukraine these days, but these refugees from Afghanistan need our help right now too as they start a new life in this country.

Blessings to you all, Nancy Shepherd

The next meeting will be Wednesday the 13th of April. If anyone would like to attend, Let me know and I can ask Phyllis to send you the zoom link.

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of the Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

Lord have mercy.

Amen



THOSE IN OUR MILITARY

JONATHAN OAKES, ALEX CORMIER, ANDREW CULLEN, DENNIS HARD, DUNCAN SCHAF, BRANDON HARSCH, AIDAN CANFIELD.

Angie

Ann

Anderson, Ross

Aunt Laura

Begg, Theresa & Family

Blood, David

Bonomi, Betty

Bonnacolta, Patricia

Boyd, Jane

Carter, Mickie & Mikel

Charity

Christy, Ann

Connors, Margaret

Mary and Bruce Cooper

Craft, Ruth

Paula & Chris D.

Daley, Helen

David

Dean, Susan

Duchenev, Christopher

Fallon, Art

Fratoni, Elena

Desler, Ray (Sharron)

Glazer, Pam (cancer)

Gracey, Ariana (Jean Reed's granddaughter)

Gray, Marilyn (daughter of Fran Gray)

Gray, Martin (son of Fran Gray)

Guadalupe, Mellisa

Hoff, Chris

Holly

Jefferson-Tate, Rene

Leonard, Charlie & Jim, Karla

Mahon, Betty

Mattila, Melanie

McKenna, Bill

Mezick, Margaret

Meyer, Maureen

Moss, Willine

Nick and Terri, Mary

Panetta Paul (Maureen's brother)

Panetta Mary (Maureen's niece)

Panetta, Maureen (recovering from surgery)

Pellerin, Kerry (friend of Amy's who has M.S.)

Pothier, Mark (Sharron and Vince's son)

Phil (friend of Nancy Sawyer)

Ray and Marge

Richardson, Elaine

Sarah, (grandchild of a friend of Jean's mother)

Sadie, Sarah

Sawyer, Nancy

Schmidt, Keara (chorus member with Maureen)

Sanft, Judy (friend of Karen)

Sheen, Trisha

Shirley's Father, Brother and Family

Slezak, Polly

Sullivan, Paul (Karen's cousin's son)

Sutton, Joe S

Wales, Edith (Lyn's cousin)

Wynn, Anderson

Zevos, John

APRIL 2022

Coffee Hour is now Open after services

DATES TO REMEMBER

Holy week see Page 2

Vestry Meeting — Tuesday April 19 7:00 PM

Vestry Day Away with Helen Daley

Saturday, April 23 9:30 AM Stephanie and Chet's House

15 Candleberry Rd, Harvard, MA
If you need a ride call or Txt Lyn @ 508-223-6523

Wednesday, May 4 Soup Kitchen Salad Donations (see online sign up)

Saturday, May 7 Town Wide Yard Sale 9:00 AM @ Trinity Chapel
Set up Friday, May 6th 4:00 pm

****INCLUDING RAFFLES FOR GIFT CERTIFICATES****
Contact Nan Gulliver—508-331-1109 or nanadove@gmail.com

Sunday, May 8 Mother's Day

Sunday, May 29 9:00 AM
Bishop Alan Gates to Visit St. Mark's