



The Messenger

Trinity Episcopal Church, Columbus, Georgia

The Rev. Timothy Graham, Rector

The Rev. Kyle Stillings, Associate Rector

Joseph Golden, Organist & Choirmaster

Dr. Aesook Moon, Associate Organist & Choirmaster

May 2019

From the Rector

From the Rev. Timothy H. Graham, Rector

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter! There are many benefits of being a part of a church. This is a place where you can be known and loved. This is a place where you can experience God's love in a variety of ways. This is a place where you can be strengthened each week by hearing and learning about holy scripture. You can be nourished here in the sacraments of bread and wine, baptism, and healing that can give you strength to face daily challenges. This is a place that you can call home. This is a place to make friends for life.

One of the most important benefits *you* get from being a part of a church family is discovering the joy of serving. We can receive many gifts by being a part of a church family. But perhaps the greatest gift is actually giving back. Many have experienced this benefit of serving, and that's what makes our church great. By serving we can feel the joy of being a Christian. At Trinity we have the opportunity to share what God has given to us by giving back to God in our tithes and offerings, by making a financial pledge, or placing money in the offering plate. We also have the opportunity to share our gifts and talents in many, many other ways. We can experience church as a place where we serve others. We have the opportunity to get involved, to dig deeper, to share our lives with others by doing our part in the ministry of this church. You can serve on the Altar Guild. You can arrange flowers, iron linens, or teach children in Vacation Bible School. You can show up for the newly formed Brotherhood of St. Andrew men's ministry and help clean up after breakfast, or you can help make dinner for Wednesday night suppers or special events. You can read scripture in church, help serve communion, or be an usher. You can bake cookies with kids, serve eggs and grits at the weekly Prayer Breakfast, sort and fold clothes in the Trinity Clothes Closet, or make a piece of art to sell in the Trinity Shop. You can stand on the front porch of the church and greet Sunday morning visitors. There are so many ways that you can serve here, and by doing so, *you* will be the one to receive the gift.

In this Easter season I invite you to discover the joy of serving at Trinity Church. If you would like to meet with me or Kyle to discuss how you can serve, we would be delighted to talk to you. God bless you!

Timothy H. Graham
Fr. Tim Graham



Building a Spirit-empowered community that serves and celebrates Christ.

"Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry;" Psalm 88:2

We pray God's protection for those serving in battle.

In Our Prayers:

- Bill Batastini
- Charlie Morgan
- Fleur Stearns
- Margaret Quintard
- Dr. Lloyd Hudson
- Lucius Morton
- Don & Nancy Bloebaum
- George Wade
- Ann Sturkie
- Hadley Scott
- Joyce Curry
- Tracy Mourer
- Paul Rickard
- Joey Burke
- Bob Miller
- Cecil Cheves
- Fred Korzan
- Lilly Myers
- Kathleen Bishop
- Gina Black Watson
- Doug Foster
- Betsy Blanchard Staples
- Barbara Korzan
- Marjorie Naylor
- Helen Manderson
- George Trussell, Sr.
- George Trussell, Jr.
- Bob Upchurch
- Aiden Elias
- Mackenzie Etheridge
- Gladys Sherwood
- Sharon Sprouse
- Judy Wilkinson
- Ginger Calhoun
- Jessica Taylor
- Cammy Marchetti
- Bryan Wright
- Rudi C. Pierson
- Susan Brooks
- Virginia Turner (Ely)
- Camilla Rich
- Ben Kiger
- Judy Blevins
- Tommy Blanton
- David Cartledge
- Harriot Lippmann
- Mary Bennett
- Gordon Bradford
- George Cantrell

In Thanksgiving:

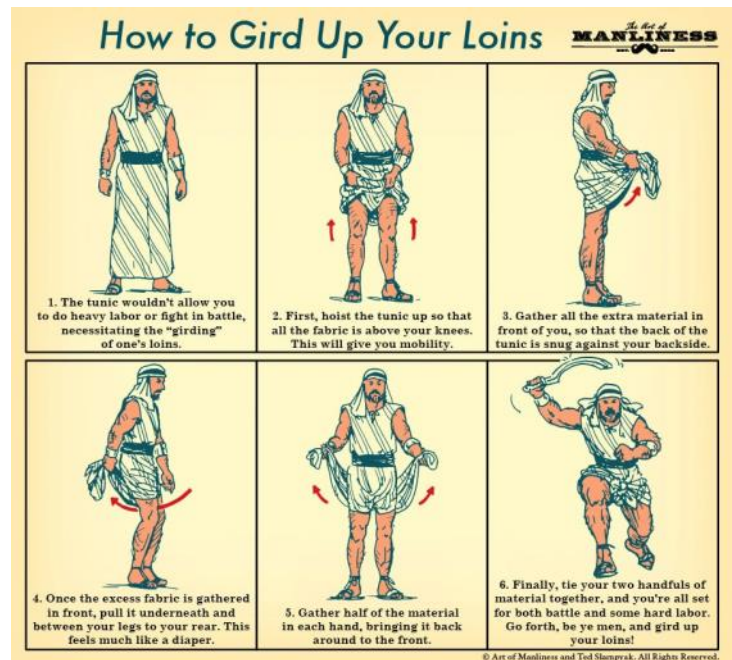
- For all those who were baptized, Confirmed, Received, & Reaffirmed by The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright on Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019: Cameron Bean, Ariel Benton, Emma Buice, Jeremy Chandler, Glenn Haskell, Carol Johnston, John Johnston, Jr., Margaret Johnston, Gail Leslie, Melissa Millwood, Stephen Millwood, Lilly Myers, Natalie Page, Coles Perrin, Amellé Riles, Nancy Schley, and Steve Thomas.
- For the baptism of baby boy Johnston Smith Nice at the Easter Vigil at Lummus Chapel in Linwood Cemetery on Saturday, April 20, 2019 by Fr. Timothy Graham. Smith is the son of Johnathan & Mary Kneeland Nice, and the grandson of Susan & Tommy Adams.

If you know of a Parishioner who is in the hospital, has had a child, or is facing some crisis, please let the Parish Office know so our Parish family can respond.

Gird Your Loins

The Rev. Kyle Stillings – *"This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD."* - Exodus 12:11

Sometimes when I am reading the Bible it feels as though those words were set down just for me in that moment. The Word of God is alive in the words of scripture, and I am struck at how often a passage speaks to what is happening in my life. Just as often, however, I am struck by how different my life and worldview is compared to the people I read about in scripture. The verse above was part



(Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y6r8o475> to see larger graphic.)

of our readings for Maundy Thursday, and I have spent more time than is perhaps reasonable this week thinking about girded loins. It is such an alien concept to me. Neither "gird" nor "loins" are everyday words in my family or social circle. Speaking of circles, the definition of gird is, "to encircle; secure." To gird up one's loins means to prepare yourself for struggle either literally (e.g., 1 Kgs 18:46), or metaphorically (e.g., Job 38:3; 1 Pet 1:13).

In ancient Israel men didn't wear pants, they wore a tunic-like garment called a kethoneth that would extend down to either the knees or the ankles. While this has some advantages in terms of comfort and simplicity to make, it was not practical for hard labor or battle. In order to fight without tripping over your clothes a person would hitch them up and wrap the fabric around their middle, hence girding their loins for battle. The image above illustrates what that would look like.

This might all just be cocktail trivia, but I believe we can learn a lesson as well. We accumulate things that make our day to day lives easier or more comfortable. We establish patterns and routines of behavior that fit our schedules and lifestyles. And for the most part that is well and good, but when God calls us to action we must be ready to set everything else aside in order to respond to that call. We must be ready and willing to go where the Spirit sends us, and that means being willing to bind up worldly patterns so that we don't trip and stumble on the mundane on the journey to the holy. The work we are about is building up relationships to share the good news of the kingdom of God. We cannot allow the social customs and cliques we wrap ourselves in to prevent us from walking across the aisle, whether that be the political aisle, the church aisle, the grocery store, or those in our neighborhoods. I'm not suggesting we throw all propriety to the wind – we are girding up our loins, not stripping naked in the streets – but we need to be flexible, gird up our loins, and go forth in the name of Christ.

In Peace,

TRINITY SPOTLIGHT: Get to Know...

The Matthews Family



Keith was born and raised in Marietta, Georgia. He attended Furman University and earned a Bachelor of Music Education and then went to Arizona State University and received a Masters in Trumpet Performance. He taught high school band for fourteen years in Arizona and Georgia before attending Florida State University where he earned his doctorate in Music Education. He is currently the professor of music education and area coordinator at CSU.

Caitriona was born in Ireland and grew up in Wisconsin and South Carolina. She attended Furman University for an undergraduate degree in Music Education and University of Georgia for veterinary school. She taught middle school orchestra for six years before attending veterinary school and has been a small animal veterinarian for almost ten years.

Keith and Caitriona met at Furman University while both pursuing music degrees, but never dated. They met again ten years later while playing for the Gainesville Symphony in Gainesville, Georgia. They started dating after the first concert and were married a year later.

FAMILY: Keith and Caitriona have two precious children, Maura and Colin, ages seven and five. Maura is a 2nd grader at Clubview Elementary School. She is a very active girl and loves anything involving expending a lot of energy. She has been in gymnastics since she was two and also enjoys swimming, roller blading, biking, running, dancing, playing and ice skating.

Colin is in the pre-k Montessori program at First Presbyterian Day School. He started taekwondo one year ago and has already earned three belts. He also enjoys riding his bike, playing with his sister and friends, and swimming.

HOBBIES: Keith enjoys running and participating in triathlons and Caitriona also enjoys running and racing. They have a yearly tradition of running the Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta together.

THEIR FAITH: Keith was raised in the Baptist tradition and later attended a few Presbyterian churches, and Caitriona grew up in the Catholic church. The Matthews moved to Columbus in 2014 for Keith to accept the position of Music Education professor at Columbus State. They visited Trinity shortly thereafter because they hoped the Episcopal faith would be a good blend of their two faith traditions. They were impressed with how warmly the Trinity congregation welcomed them, and they found that the Episcopal tradition was the right combination of Protestant and Catholic traditions that made them both feel at home.

ON TRINITY: Maura and Colin have greatly benefitted from the Trinity children's programs. They both love to come to Sunday School and also enjoy helping serve butter and jelly on Lucy Sheftall's Prayer Breakfast team. The Matthews are active members of the Back Pew Club and also enjoy volunteering as a family for VIP and making dinner and meeting with the VIP families. We are grateful to them for their service in that important ministry!

The Matthews have enjoyed becoming a part of the Trinity family and feel very fortunate for the spiritual growth and connections they have made as a result of their involvement in the church.

We are so glad that this young family found their way to Trinity! We look forward to getting to know them and watching their children grow in their Christian faith and develop into young adults.

Music, Music, MUSIC!

Joseph Golden & Dr. Aesook Moon – Many, *many* thanks to the Trinity Choir for all of the extra services and extra rehearsals that led us through Lent, Holy Week, the Great Vigil of Easter, and the glorious Easter Day celebrations. The Trinity brass and percussion did their leadership work expertly on Easter Day at both services.

It is a rare and complete privilege to work with the singular clergy at Trinity. Their caring planning and leadership and support of the music department inspire all of us all of the time. Thank you, Fr. Tim and Fr. Kyle!

The Trinity Handbell Choir has a brand new composition to learn! Rehearsals will begin **Monday, June 3, from 6:00-6:30 pm**. The premier of the new work for handbells and organ will be Sunday, June 30th. All are welcome to join this diverse group who have fun ringing together. Come ring those golden bells!

Our next big project is producing a new CD titled "Great Hymns of the Faith," Vol. 1, to be recorded in early September and available for purchase in November. Last year's Christmas CD was *well* received, and we hope our new effort will be met with a similar response. As you can see, this will be volume 1 of a series of recordings that will cover over 50 hymns in the course of several choir seasons.

Soon you will be the recipient of a new letter appeal to parish; last year at this time, the parish family responded in a robust manner to an appeal for support for our outreach ministry to university students in our area, providing much needed scholarship funds to pay for rent, food, gasoline, and other essentials. The students are all so grateful for the opportunity to work for these funds, providing musical leadership every week in the 10:30 service. Many churches with similar programs take the summer months "off," but the needs of the students continue. Because of the generosity of Trinity parish, we have been able to continue to offer this support all year, which is a large blessing for these students who remain in their studies over the summer months. Please watch for this new letter to arrive in your mailbox and respond as you are able to help this worthy cause.

Blessings, thanksgiving, and grace,

Joseph Golden & Dr. Aesook Moon

BE SURE TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
AND INSTAGRAM FOR WEEKLY UPDATES!

MAY YOUTH EVENTS

May 5th - Avengers Movie
May 19th - Riverwalk Game Day

Summer is (Pretty Much) Here!

Lauren Blanchard – As school is winding down and summer quickly approaches, we have some planning to do! Our mission trip this year will be at the end of July. Specific dates will be chosen soon. We will be travelling to Atlanta to work with multiple organizations including Rainbow Village and The Friendship Center. Leading up to the trip, we will be planning together and engaging all who are interested in having their voices heard. Be watching for emails and Facebook posts with all the information!

Beginning in May, I'll be on maternity leave. Youth will meet with Meghan Twigg and Fr. Kyle almost every other week. Add these dates to your calendars and invite your friends! We have a fun slate of events planned:

May 5 – Avengers movie

May 19 – Riverwalk Game Day

June 2 - Your Pie, Freeze Frame, & "Not Safe for Church"
Bible Study

June 23 – Launch Trampoline Park

June 30 – Pool party

You don't
have to go
home, but
you can't
stay here.

*We **WON'T** meet Mother's Day, May 12 or Memorial Day weekend, May 26. Enjoy the holidays with your family!



Know a Graduate?

If you have a son or daughter, grandchild, or great-grandchild who is graduating **High School** or **College** this spring (or you're the one graduating!), please contact Trinity's Parish Office with their information. We'll publish a list of names and congratulate them in next month's June issue of *The Messenger*, as well as in the worship service bulletin on **Mother's Day Sunday, May 12** at the **10:30 am** service, where we will also give verbal acknowledgment. Please let us know their **NAME**, their **SCHOOL**, and what their **MAJOR** was if applicable.

Call the Parish Office at (706) 322-5569 or email Whitney at trinitycols@gmail.com. **The deadline for graduate submissions is Thursday, May 9 by NOON.**

