



# 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

July 2019



## From the Rector

*From the Rev. Timothy H. Graham, Rector*

Dear Friends,

When summer rolls around I am always reminded of Nat King Cole singing, "Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer..." I hope you all are enjoying some break in your routine, and I hope this summer is a time of refreshment for you as well. Even though it is summer, and the church schedule changes slightly, there are still plenty of things going on around here. In fact, in some ways summertime at church seems more crazy than lazy. We have had strong participation in worship and activities for the last few weeks. In this photo you'll see Maggie Johnston with three of our kids from Children's Chapel. They are doing some amazing things together even in the summer, and Vacation Bible School is just a few weeks away and we will see lots

of crazy kids here having the time of their lives. Yesterday in Kyle's Sunday School class we had almost twenty people doing Bible study together. Even though some of our choir members are away for various reasons, we still have an amazing group and beautiful music in worship each week. If you missed hearing Erica Humbert sing, "I Know That my Redeemer Liveth" last Sunday, you missed a transcendent and truly holy moment. Please go to our Facebook page and watch the video. You'll be glad you did!

Again, I hope you will find some rest for yourselves and family this summer, but we are not really taking much of a break here at church. There is still plenty going on here for you to get your spiritual batteries recharged. When you are not at the beach, lake, or on the road, we hope to see you here on First Avenue. God bless you all.

*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          | • Dr. Gus Dudley                         |
| • Charlie Morgan          | • George Trussell, Sr.                   |
| • Fleur Stearns           | • George Trussell, Jr.                   |
| • Trudy Wade              | • Bob Upchurch                           |
| • Dr. Lloyd Hudson        | • Aiden Elias                            |
| • Lucius Morton           | • Mackenzie Etheridge                    |
| • Don & Nancy Bloebaum    | • Gladys Sherwood                        |
| • George Wade             | • Sharon Sprouse                         |
| • Ann Sturkie             | • Judy Wilkinson                         |
| • Hadley Scott            | • Ginger Calhoun                         |
| • Sharon Sprouse          | • Jessica Taylor                         |
| • Joyce Curry             | • Cammy Marchetti                        |
| • Tracy Mourer            | • Rudi C. Pierson                        |
| • Paul Rickard            | • Virginia Turner (Ely)                  |
| • Joey Burke              | • Camilla Rich                           |
| • Bob Miller              | • Jerome Shiver                          |
| • Cecil Cheves            | • Judy Blevins                           |
| • Fred Korzan             | • Tommy Blanton                          |
| • Lilly Myers             | • David Cartledge                        |
| • Kathleen Bishop         | • Hariot Lippmann                        |
| • Gina Black Watson       | • George Cantrell                        |
| • Doug Foster             | • Harold Graham                          |
| • Betsy Blanchard Staples | • Wilbur Wiggins                         |
| • Melissa Millwood        | • Sara Coleman                           |
| • Marjorie Naybor         | • Family & friends of Mary Ann Alexander |
| • Helen Manderson         | • Family & friends of Kathryn Cason      |
| • Linda Lunsford          | • Family & friends of Susan Brooks       |
| • Tanya Bowden            |                                          |
| • Harry Medley            |                                          |
| • Jean Scott              |                                          |
| • Bobby Wilson            |                                          |

***In Thanksgiving:***

- For the faithfulness of Mark Kagika in the Trinity Choir.

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.

***"By Word & Example..."***

**The Rev. Kyle Stillings** – *"Preach the gospel at all times, and when necessary use words."* - Attributed to St. Francis

*"It is necessary, nuance is dead. If you don't believe me check Twitter."* - Jerusalem Greer, staff officer for evangelism in The Episcopal Church

"When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him." (Luke 9:51-52a). Here is a turning point in Luke's narrative. Jesus has come down the mountain with those chosen disciples who witnessed the transfiguration, and they immediately began to bicker about who was the greatest, and Jesus points out a child to explain the least among them is the greatest. Jesus explains there are costs to following him, and then he sends out 70 more followers to go ahead of him. They return with joy amazed at what they

accomplished in the name of Jesus. He then tells the 12 that they are blessed above kings and prophets to have seen all of this happen.

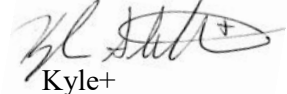
While there are a few more individual healing stories after this point, there are no group healings where crowds come to Jesus and all are healed. That work has been handed off to others in the movement. It is the followers of Jesus who, commissioned by Jesus, are preparing the world for healing and transformation. God does the work, but it is the lips of ordinary men and women who say to the world, "Peace be with you, the kingdom of God has drawn near." It is the hands of ordinary women and men who cure the sick, feed the hungry, and free the captive. It is the arms of ordinary folks like us that shelter the downtrodden, comfort the lonely, and lift up those who have stumbled and fallen.

We make a promise in our baptismal covenant to, "proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ." (BCP p. 305) The Episcopal Church has some growing to do around using our words to proclaim the Good News. I know that I need to do a better job of this, and I suspect that I am not the only one. I do a pretty good job of feeding the hungry when somebody needs a meal, but I need to be better at inviting them to come and be spiritually fed at the Eucharist. I need to do a better job of sharing that I do this ministry because I have been commissioned by Jesus, and to invite them to be partners in that work because Jesus wants them to share the Good News too. I do a better job at inviting visitors who come to church out to coffee than I do inviting people I meet when I'm getting coffee to come and visit church. I confess that I have rarely asked any of our Sunday breakfast guests to join us for worship, and I have never invited them to participate in helping to serve breakfast or in any other ministry.

Why? Am I afraid of what might happen if word got out that people can come here to meet Jesus? If the light of God truly shines in our hearts, can I hide it under a bushel (or contain it within the walls of the church)? Or, like the tongues of fire at Pentecost, does it need to be outside to spread the message to those out in the streets? At the Easter vigil we pass out candles so that everybody gathered can receive the light of Christ from the newly lit pascal candle. Many congregations do something similar on Christmas Eve. It illuminates the body of Christ in a different way than when the only candles are up on the altar. That light is meant just for us. It is meant to guide our steps as we go into dark places to bring light to the world. But for others to come and light the fire in their hearts, they need to be invited in to encounter the source of light and life in the world. They need our words to come and encounter the living Word of God.

Pray for me, that I might be a better servant and disciple by practicing what I preach and preaching what I practice, and to be a messenger that invites others to come and receive the peace and presence of God at God's table.

Your Servant in Christ,



Kyle+

## Default

**Deana Graham (A.K.A. “Mama D”)** – Since beginning my job as a Children’s Christian Education Director, I have felt an uptick in my smiles per day! I find I am touched every single time I’m with our kids. They are amazing! As the school year ended, and we finished up with Sunday School for the year, I treasure my time with the kids in Children’s Chapel. I can get dreamy about all that I wish for our children’s program, and my mind often wanders through all that I’d like to see in our future. I have one wish first though, and I think it might get us on the right track for success.

Right now, on a typical Sunday, we may have four little ones for Children’s Chapel, or we may have fifteen. I am thrilled for each one I see walking in the door, and I want them to *know* that! Hopefully, that explains the beautiful bells we ring as we leave - or loud cacophony (it’s all in how you hear it)! I want them to *feel* that they are important, that where we are going means something, and that the church *notices* them! I want going to Children’s Chapel to feel like the best parade in town every single Sunday! I want your kids to come to church, find me, and beg to hold the banner or the cross or ring the bells. I want them to feel proud to carry the banner, announcing the arrival of the children in the service. I want it to matter.

I’ll go ahead and make my request of you all, the parents. I’d like you to consider that coming to church is your default. Just as your computer almost always prints from the printer closest to your desk - so it is set as default - I would love for coming to church to be your default. I am not naive. I’m a Mama! I remember trying to get three toddlers ready for church without Tim, even on the days when we could only find five of six shoes or Harry had grown out of his pants since the previous Sunday. I know we are all *exhausted*. There is too much happening in this world and too much required of us; I understand that sometimes doughnuts, the New York Times, and the whole family in bed is needed on the only morning you get to rest. I get it. I *really* do.

But I believe, ultimately, that being here changes the lives of your children. I don’t presume you should never take a Sunday off, I just wonder if setting church as the usual Sunday practice might help in all the other many parts of your family’s life. The Sunday that we used candles to talk about the Trinity, I wished that every child I love had been there with wide eyes, as we made the candle of God bigger and bigger! Each Sunday when they write their own Prayers of the People, I find myself wondering what each precious child who isn’t there might offer. When we sing “God is a Surprise” in opera, and then country, and then rock and roll (and the children fall over with happy laughter), I wish *all* of the kids could be a part of the moment!

I’m not asking for perfect attendance. I’m asking that you consider coming on enough Sundays that your child is one of the lucky ones. One of the ones who “owns” the church, who knows their way around, who is happy when they find Mr. Reggie for a high five. I’m asking that you think about making church the usual thing on Sundays and then watching to see how that touches your family.

If we want a church full of children, our children need to *be* here. If we want fun, meaningful programs for our young people, our children need to *be* here. If we want

them to know the names of the other kids in church, our children need to *be* here. Just consider it. Getting them here is hard - no doubt. Keeping them here, after Trinity is truly part of their lives, is easy.



A friend recently shared a beautiful essay urging parents to bring their children to church. There isn’t room here for the whole thing, but I’d like to leave you with part of it. Think about it. There is no other public place where your child goes where he or she is more loved! And Mama D loves them *THE MOST*!

*“Take your kids to church.*

*Make the effort. Wake them up early. Fool with the belts and the buckles and the fancy hair bows. Endure the sleepy, grumpy faces and the displaced shoes. Run around like a mad woman gathering everybody’s everything and trying to get out the door on time. Hop to the car with a shoe in one hand and your make-up bag in the other. Give those babies a Pop-tart and some milk and let ‘em eat it in the car. If it’s raining, get wet. if it’s cold, get a jacket. If you’re tired, go tired. But take those babies to church. You know why?*

*Because Jesus is there.*

*Take your children to church. They love it there. It’s the only place where they can go and just be themselves. They don’t have to “be” good enough or smart enough or athletic enough. They don’t have to perform for approval or achievement. They just get to go and hear how much God loves them. Just because they’re them. Just because He created them, they’re valued. Wanted. Their worth isn’t based on the grades they make or their ability to throw a curveball. It’s not dependent on their performance or skill level. And they need a little more of that, don’t you think? A little more grace and a little less pressure. A little more love and a few less demands.*

*Take them to church. Before you take them to the ballfields or the dance studio or the gym. Before you take them on vacation or to grandma’s or to the backyard to play. Take them to church. Let them know it’s a priority. Show them it has eternal value. Let them see you set aside schedules and extra curricular activities and work and busy-ness to be present with the Lord in His house. I promise you won’t regret it. I promise you it won’t return back void.*

*Take them to church. I promise it’s worth it.*

*“But Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for such belongs the kingdom of heaven.’ – Matthew 19:14*

– Author Unknown





### Yarn it Up!

Do you knit or crochet? Would you like to learn how? There's a new ministry at Trinity and it's bringing people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds together! This new ministry meets the **second Thursday of each month from 10:00 am to noon** in Trinity's parlor. If you are already a yarnaholic, bring your stuff and show off! If you are new and want to learn, all supplies will be provided. Childcare will also be provided for the children who are either too young to yarn it up or don't want to. Please call Melissa Millwood at (808) 393-4520 if you plan to come or have questions.







*Little Elizabeth scoots down two long sets of stairs on her bottom as all of Children's Chapel and two passersby, cheer her on!*

## Being Part of the Family

Over the last few months, as I've taken on a new role at Trinity, I've thought a lot about what it means to be part of a special family - a church family. I've considered the likes and differences between our families at home and our family at church. Truly, I can only think of *GREAT* reasons to be part of a church family; you are loved unconditionally, you don't have to mow the grass, there are lots of hugs, you leave with things to consider, study, and think about further, there are always laughs, there is lots of food, and there are friendly faces at every turn! Most importantly, our church family gives us a chance to pray in unison with other believers, to confess our sins together, and to model our love of God to all of the children in the family.

I spend a great deal of time thinking about that last one - modeling our love of God, showing our children what we believe and why, and making church a place that the youngest of us want to come to and never leave. Since we are all part of the Trinity family, our children are *OUR* concern! How they feel when they arrive at church, when they walk the halls, and when they leave, is one of our (easy) responsibilities.

I'd like you to imagine your part here - and, let me say from the start, that I'm not asking you to clean out car seats, host any birthday parties, or suffer through a session at Chuck E. Cheese. We all do that, when it's our turn, with our own children. I am asking you to consider something greater, something that can change your life, and something that will, most definitely, alter the trajectory of the spiritual life of one child or many.

Where do you fit in? What is your part in the family? Do you want to be one of the folks who quickly says, "I did my part when my children were young..."? That is heard and interpreted a little more like, "I'm no longer interested in the children here." Want to feel a blessing that cannot be matched? Find your place with our little people. They will love you like Jesus does - unconditionally. They will listen to your stories, sit in your lap, squeeze you so hard with a hug when they see you, and loudly call your name across the Parish Hall. They are full of the really *good* stuff that we sometimes forget about in our busyness of each day.

As I write this, I'm hearing your doubt; "I'm too old. I'm too young. I never had children. I don't know their names. I don't like to sing silly songs. I don't like to get messy. I'm in a wheelchair. I can't come every Sunday. I'm busy with my son's games. I don't like loud noises. I never know what to say to little people. Kids run around too fast. I can't recite Bible verses. I'm tired!" I hear you. I *get* it! I believe, though, that the ways you could influence the church life of a child are too numerous to list, and what they will give you in return cannot be measured.

We are a family. We are the Trinity family. We are there for each other, in good times and bad. Where is your role in the life of our children? Pray about it, ask me questions, or just step out and befriend a precious child. Give them some of the love that God has given you. They may not remember each moment, but they will come to know that they are loved beyond measure at Trinity Church!

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- ☺ Look every child in the eyes and SMILE.
- ☺ Make it your business to find out the names of the children you run into on Sundays, and then call them by name in the future. (They are *very* understanding if you forget - ask them again!)
- ☺ Ask a kid what they did in Children's Chapel, what their favorite part of Sunday is, or what they are doing after church.
- ☺ Thinking about sneaking out the side door really quickly at the end of church? Consider staying to meet some young families, as they watch their children spill lemonade to go chase a friend. You don't have to do it every Sunday, just sometimes!
- ☺ Ask them if it's hard to sit still in church. Let them know that you were once a squirmy kid in church, and tell them a funny story about what your mom used to do to keep you quiet!
- ☺ Let the children see you having fun after church, laughing with friends, new and old.
- ☺ Remember how every church used to have someone who gave every kid a nickel or a butterscotch after church? *YOU* could be that person!
- ☺ Make funny faces and let kids know you are a kid at heart.
- ☺ Share your crazy voice or magic trick or double-jointed thumb or whatever makes you *you*!
- ☺ Comment on a child's outfit, ask them about their Sunday School art, or introduce them to your teenagers.



*Betsy Staples and Maura Matthews embrace after Betsy delighted Maura with a few pieces of costume jewelry - a secret hand-off I just happened to catch!*

Just connect! You'll be blessed, and so will our precious children. And, last, but not least, come see me, call me ((678)231-6369), or email me ([graham.deana@gmail.com](mailto:graham.deana@gmail.com)) and let me know that you will be a helper in Children's Chapel (it's easy and fun) or teach Sunday School with a group next fall, or be part of the most fun VBS in town! We *need* you - yes, *YOU*! No more excuses. It's time you got to know the tiniest in our family. They won't forget and neither will you!

Oh! And for a *super* special blessing each week, check my Facebook page or the official Trinity Facebook page - I always share the Prayers of the People, written by the children. Sometimes they'll make you laugh, sometimes they'll make you cry, and sometimes they'll do both!

With love and appreciation,

"Mama D" (Deana Graham)

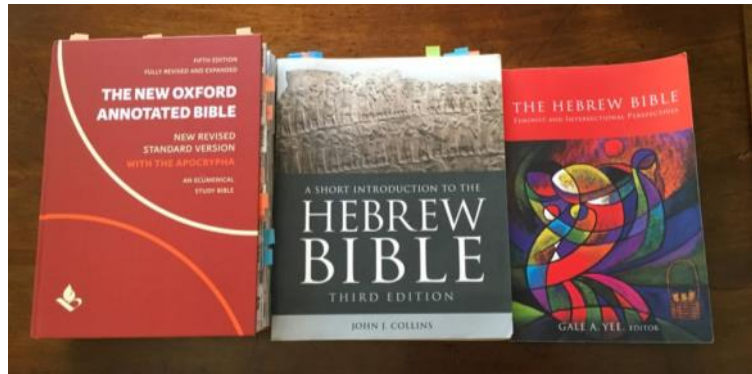


## EfM Returns to Trinity

The **Education for Ministry (EfM)** program will once again be offered through Trinity Episcopal Church. We will be forming one multi-parish EfM group (6-12 people) that will begin meeting at Trinity in the fall once a core group is formed. The tuition for 2019-2020 in the Diocese of Atlanta is \$375, which includes all materials. Scholarships may be available for those who need them. Please contact The Rev. Kyle Stillings or Malcolm Cooper if you are interested in joining this class or for more information.

EfM is a wonderful program for anyone interested in exploring both personal and communal faith theologically and spiritually. The course combines worship, group and individual study, and spiritual reflection in a small group seminar format of six to twelve people under the guidance of a trained mentor. Groups meet weekly for 36 weeks spread over a nine-month period beginning in the fall and concluding in May or June of 2020. These meetings are usually from two and a half to three hours in length. Time is needed outside of class to complete weekly readings. The program unfolds over a period of four years, though students sign up for only one year at a time. Year one students study the Hebrew Scriptures, year two the New Testament, year three church history, and year four Christian theologies and other world religions. There is a group discussion as well, using methods of theological reflection to examine the role of faith, scripture, and tradition in our everyday decisions. The group may have members from each of the four years who meet together or all on the same year. EfM was developed and is coordinated through The School of Theology of the University of the South in Sewanee, TN. There are EfM groups all over the world, and around the Diocese of Atlanta. For additional information, including history and curricula, please visit the official EfM website at [efm.sewanee.edu](http://efm.sewanee.edu).

People begin the EfM program for many reasons - an in-



terest in the origins and development of scripture and church history, a desire to find a ministry that "fits," a suggestion by your Rector that it might be a good program for you, a way of connecting with other members of the congregation and/or a need to develop new skills for a leadership role. Whatever the reason you begin, by the end of the four years, EfM will have challenged you, expanded your knowledge of your church and its history, given you unique spiritual friendships, and empowered you to act out your faith. If you are interested in starting the EfM program, or if you started but did not finish and want to continue, please contact The Rev. Kyle Stillings, ([kylestillings@gmail.com](mailto:kylestillings@gmail.com) or (706) 322-5569 ext. 308), or Malcolm Cooper ([mcmalcolmcooper@gmail.com](mailto:mcmalcolmcooper@gmail.com) or (918)766-5135), about joining this class. We would like to have all registrations completed before the end of August to provide sufficient time to order and receive the course materials.



## Music, Music, & More Music!

**Joseph Golden** – We are not idle in the music area this summer! We are working on new anthems for next year and on the special arrangements of great hymns for our new CD: "*Great Hymns of the Faith, Vol. I*," which we will record in late September.

This new CD will include arrangements of traditional and newer hymns that we sing in our regular worship at Trinity. They will be the most admired and beloved hymns in our tradition. Instrumental support will include brass, percussion, strings and winds, adding to the excellent work of our own wonderful Dr. Aesook Moon at the organ.

Please note that this will be Vol. *I* of an ongoing project that will eventually contain in excess of 50 memorable and favorite compositions, in multiple volumes. We will have an early pre-order drive in September, so that we can accurately order the necessary number of CDs in advance.

The CDs will be available for purchase well before the holiday season and would make an excellent and truly one-of-a-kind gift for family and friends.