



The Messenger

TRINITY Episcopal Church, Columbus, Georgia

The Rev. Timothy Graham, Rector

The Rev. Kyle Scillings, Associate Rector

Joseph Golden, Organist & Choirmaster

Dr. Aesook Moon, Associate Organist & Choirmaster

August 2019

From the Rector

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

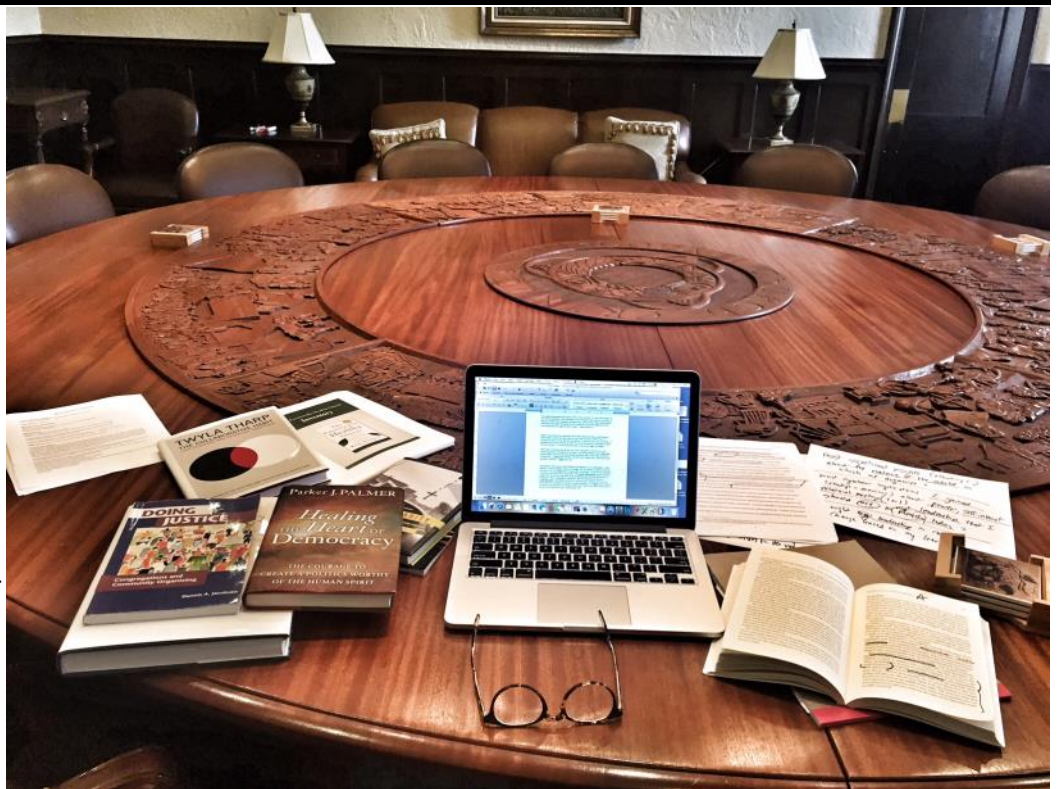
Dear Friends,

Recently I needed to finish a paper for a seminary class and I needed a large space to spread out all of my books and notes. So, I decided to take my work upstairs to the Jordan room and work at the big table. After working on my paper for a short while, I began to think about the beautiful carved table that I was using.

Many of you know that this beautiful table upstairs in the church is carved with the history of Trinity Episcopal Church. It is a *beautiful* memorial and work of art featuring carved images of many of the movements and moments in our parish history. It is a fascinating thing to study and the story it

tells is rich. As a congregation we have been through many struggles and hardships in the past almost two hundred years. There have been many joys and blessings along the way too.

As with any telling of history, there are stories that do not get told and important players that do not get mentioned. Sometimes I walk around this church and think about all of the people who have called this place home in ages past, people that made this community strong, people who found their faith in Jesus Christ to be their strength in life, people who sacrificed here and loved others. It is important to remember our past and give thanks for it - even the parts that don't get carved into tables and do not get recorded in books. Each act of love and devotion, each story, shaped this place into who we are today. Reflecting on the past reminds us that we have a future. We cannot imagine today who will be at Trinity Church in the coming generations, but we can know that they will build on the good work that we are doing now. I am thankful for each one of you and for the history that we are making in our faithful work and witness to spread the good news of Jesus.



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
- Trudy Wade
- Dr. Lloyd Hudson
- Lucius Morton
- Don & Nancy Bloebaum
- George Wade
- Trudy 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
- Marjorie Naybor
- Tanya Bowden
- Susan Caster
- Jean Scott
- Bobby Wilson
- Dr. Gus Dudley
- George Trussell, Sr.
- George Trussell, Jr.
- Bob Upchurch
- Aiden Elias
- Mackenzie Etheridge
- Gladys Sherwood
- Sharon Sprouse
- Judy Wilkinson
- Ginger Calhoun
- Jessica Taylor
- Cammy Marchetti
- Rudi C. Pierson
- Virginia Turner (Ely)
- Jerome Shiver
- Judy Blevins
- Tommy Blanton
- Karen Blanton
- David Cartledge
- Harriot Lippmann
- Harold Graham
- Wilbur Wiggins
- Sara Coleman
- Marcie Topping
- Family & friends of Wesley Owens
- Family & friends of Linda Lunsford

In Thanksgiving:

- For all the wonderful people who gave their time and talents and made this summer's Vacation Bible School a raging success, and the children that graced our halls and filled them with joy and laughter.

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.

Do Not Be Afraid

The Rev. Kyle Stillings – *"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I tell you? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house."* - Luke 6:46-49

Then he said to them all, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole

world, but lose or forfeit themselves? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words, of them the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels." - Luke 9:23-26

Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. - Luke 12:32-34

"There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" He replied, "What is impossible for mortals is possible for God." - Luke 18:22-27

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. - Colossians 3:1-3

Sometimes the words of Jesus have some sting to them. It is not always easy to hear, and harder still to do. But Jesus is the Good Shepherd who goads and guides us along as His flock for our protection, and not a cruel taskmaster who uses whip and barb to force labor from servants. We are made in the image of God to have hearts for God, and Jesus encourages us to invest our treasure, our time, and our very selves in God's eternal kingdom. That investment is never in vain, but bears good fruit, and we are born to be fruitful.

Of course, we can't do it on our own. Thus the despairing question from the crowd in Luke 18. Thus our own doubts (Did Jesus *really* mean that? Isn't that a parable that I don't need to take *literally*?), and foot dragging (I can pledge next year... There will be time to volunteer once the kids are out of the house... I can help out once I don't have to worry about mom and dad...), and fears (What if I'm not good enough? What if I try something new and it doesn't work? What if I make a pledge and my income changes?). Jesus tells us not to be afraid, that with God all things are possible. It is to the joy and pleasure of God to see us succeed and inherit the kingdom.

Do not worry about what we lose, but rather rejoice in how much there is to gain in Christ. The wealth of the world is cold metal and stones that have no life in them, but the treasure of God is life itself. Why would we strive for anything less? God has set us free from the power of sin and death, so do not seek after what has enslaved us in the past. Your life, your treasure, your heart, is with God.

Your Servant in Christ,



Kyle+



Meant to Shine

Deana Graham (A.K.A. “Mama D”) – Greetings from the pre-craziness of Vacation Bible School! As I sit at my desk and write this, I am surrounded by tents, sleeping bags, bamboo poles, balls, pool noodles, wood scraps, lawn chairs, and enough art supplies to keep little hands busy for a long time. I find, too, that I am wrapped up with many prayers, hopes, and dreams for next week. I know that when you read this, VBS will be part of Trinity’s history - but, now it takes up all of the space in my car, my office, my head, and my heart. I have BIG plans to make next week the best it can be and to show children from all across this town that God loves them unconditionally.

Our theme this year is LIGHT. We will focus on the many ways that God lights our way, that Jesus is the light of the world, and how we can shine His holy light in places that need it. In between the lessons about this LIGHT that gives us life, we will dance and sing and laugh and eat and run and act very silly! I will be excited to fill you in on the big moments from VBS, and I am already overwhelmed with gratefulness to so many of you for your help. You have dropped off items I have requested, donated money, baked and prayed for our week. **Thank you, Trinity family!**

Spending so much time thinking about light has had me remembering a story I heard long ago. It is a story I think of, from time to time, and one I am thankful to know. It has made a difference so many times in my life. It goes something like this...

There is a center located on the island of Crete, the largest of the Greek Isles. Much fighting has taken place on Crete, but this center is devoted to peace. Often, folks travel to Crete to visit the center for workshops or retreats. Once, as a monk was finishing a days long conference, he asked, “Are there any questions?” One person in the group raised his hand and asked, “What is the meaning of life?”

Apparently, most folks laughed and assumed the question was more of a joke. They began to gather their stuff to leave. The monk quieted them. He said he’d like to answer the question if the man was serious. So the participants sat back down to listen.

The monk explained that years ago, during WWII, during the Battle of Crete, the young monk had witnessed many horrific and violent things. After the destruction was over, he often went about looking for pieces left from the fighting. One day he came upon the remains of a soldier's

wrecked motorcycle. There, in the rubble, he noticed a piece of glass from the motorcycle’s mirror. He was entranced by it, and he put it in his pocket. He spent days smoothing the sides of the mirror until it was a perfect circle, and he began to learn some of what he could do with the tiny mirror. Sometimes he could start a fire with it, and some days he would practice reflecting the sun’s light into the darkest places he could find. That became his hobby - finding the darkest place and challenging himself to reflect light to it - even deep holes, crevices, and hard to reach places.

He finished the story and looked at the folks in his class and said, “So, that is the meaning of *my* life - to use my life to shine the brightest light into the dark places of the world, into the places that need light the most.”

I have always treasured that story. What a challenge for us all. How do we shine God’s light? Do we see dark places that need light? What ways can we reflect God’s light into the darkest places in the world, in other people, in our own town, and in our church?

It seems a wonderful way to go through life, shining the light of the world into the darkest places. What do you think?

Mama’s Got a Brand New Bag!

Deana Graham (A.K.A. “Mama D”) – After much praying, discussing, tallying attendance, and thought, we believe we have come up with a new Sunday morning routine that will work for everyone this new Sunday School year. I am very excited for the extra time I’ll get with the children, and I think you parents will love it too!

We **WILL NOT** have Sunday School at 9:30 am as we have in the past. The attendance is showing that it’s hard for people to get the kids here by then. However, Children’s Chapel will morph, giving us more time together to get good lessons in, with plenty of time for fun as well.

Beginning Sunday, September 1, you will bring your children, age 3 years through 5th grade straight upstairs. I’ll be there and ready for them by 10:20. This will give you time to settle in and begin your worship in a prayerful place. I will keep the children until the Peace and bring them back as usual.

ALSO, each first Sunday of the month will be **First Sunday Fun Day**, where I (with helpers) will keep the kids for lunch and extended church, learning, fun time, from **noon until 2:00 pm!** Parents may go off to lunch together or with a group. Kyle has some special things he’s planning for you all as well. I’m ecstatic that we will have more time for formation and fun, and I can’t wait to get started! To make things even better, our youth will be helping with Sunday mornings and First Sunday Fun Days!

We’ll explain more as we get closer to the start of the new year, but I believe this is going to be a *fantastic* plan. Pray for our children and helpers, and consider if you might be willing to put your name on a list to assist me from time to time. I promise you’ll smile more in one day than your whole weekly quota!

Here’s to the best year yet for the youngest of our Trinity family!

Musical Notes: Listen Up!

Joseph Golden & Dr. Aesook Moon – “*Great Hymns of the Faith, Vol. 1*” will be recorded during September, produced in October, and be ready for purchase in November. We will take pre-order reservations following the 10:30 service beginning in late September. Order yours early for truly unique holiday gifts! All proceeds go directly to worthy students who are part of our Choral Scholars program.

If your favorite hymns are not included in Volume 1, please know that this is an on-going project that will eventually have 4-5 volumes, adding a new group of hymns each year. Some hymns will have organ accompaniment. Some will add harp and strings. Some will have low brass, and some will feature full brass, timpani, and organ. Dr. Moon will also play a solo version of a much loved work. A wide variety of hymns from different centuries and in different styles will provide something for everyone.

Continued *THANKS* are in order, from everyone in the music area to everyone who has contributed to the Choral Scholar Fund. If you have not joined that group, please consider making a donation to this worthy outreach to our college and university young people.

The Trinity Choir has been working all summer preparing for a big fall season. There will be many new faces in the choir soon, so please speak to and welcome folks that are new.

The Trinity Handbells will regroup for the fall after Labor Day and plan to ring in church in October. Watch for details about that soon!

It seems that the National American Guild of Organists is rather hard-up these days! They have just named Prof. Golden as the AGO District Convener for the state of Georgia. Who would have thought...?

Have a glorious rest of the summer!

Sunday Night Life

Lauren Blanchard – On Sunday nights our youth group meets from 5:00-7:00 pm either at Trinity or another location, and we share fellowship and a meal together. We’ve played many rounds of Trivia, Family Feud, Battle of the Sexes, and more! Sometimes we venture out and meet at the bowling alley or at the Riverwalk for an outdoor game night. Wherever we are and whatever we’re doing, I find joy in our youth and am thankful for the time we spend together.

As we enter a new school year we are adding some changes to our routine, and I know they will be great additions to our program! On Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:15 am, we will help Deana Graham (“Mama D.”), our Children’s Ministry Director, in leading Children’s Chapel. In addition, on the first Sunday of every month we will help with “First Sunday Fun Day,” the new Sunday School program for Trinity’s kids. We will all meet after church from 12:00-2:00 pm with lunch provided. This will be a great time for the entire youth of our church to be together and grow relationships across all ages. On the first Sunday of every month, youth will not meet in the evenings.

When we do meet on Sunday nights, we will be calling this time together Sunday Night Life, or SNL. The remaining weeks of the month will be dedicated to Faith Formation and youth nights/outings. Faith Formation is extremely important and this year we are putting a big focus on how to live out our faith in our everyday lives. Once a month we’ll spend our entire time together working

with our new curriculum and plan “weekly check ins” for the remaining Sunday’s in the month.

Sometimes changes can be challenging, but I am really excited about all we have planned. I’m looking forward to many more nights of fun and fellowship and can’t wait to continue growing in our faith with such an awesome group!

