



The Messenger

TRINITY Episcopal Church, Columbus, Georgia

The Rev. Timothy Graham, Rector

The Rev. Kyle Scilling, Associate Rector

Joseph Golden, Organist & Choirmaster

Dr. Aesook Moon, Associate Organist & Choirmaster

September 2019

From the Rector

From the Rev. Timothy H. Graham, Rector



Dear Friends,

In a recent weekly email to you I mentioned that sometimes I enjoy praying while I look at my photographs. Many of you know that I love taking photographs and I sometimes have a bad habit of taking a photo during worship. I try to be really sneaky about that. Photographs help us capture moments and remember people and events in our lives. There are so many moments of love and grace and inspiration that happen around Trinity Church. I want to take photographs of everything that happens here because I want to share it with you and the world. In the photo collage here you will see a beautiful tapestry of some sweet faces and precious moments of our life together. I'm thankful for each person here and each person touched by the ministry of this church. There is so much joy, wonder, love, grace, care and inspiration in the moments of our common life. And those moments are happening all around us, all the time. You don't have to be a photographer to notice. I hope you'll find a way to notice someone at Trinity that you have not noticed before. Together we are a beautiful image of the body of Christ, and I'm thankful for every part of it! 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:

- Ellie Wheeler
- Pat Newton
- Ines Grevel
- Bill Batastini
- Charlie Morgan
- Fleur Stearns
- Trudy Wade
- 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
- Marjorie Naybor
- Tanya Bowden
- Susan Caster
- Jean Scott
- Bobby Wilson
- George Trussell, Sr.
- George Trussell, Jr.
- Alma Winn
- Bob Upchurch
- Aiden Elias
- Mackenzie Etheridge
- Gladys Sherwood
- Sharon Sprouse
- Judy Wilkinson
- Michael Owen
- Jared Lipscomb
- Ida Stokes
- Ginger Calhoun
- Jessica Taylor
- Cammy Marchetti
- Virginia Turner (Ely)
- Jerome Shiver
- David Cartledge
- Hariot Lippmann
- Harold Graham
- Wilbur Wiggins
- Sara Coleman
- Rebecca DeLoach
- Family & friends of Kyungja Moon
- Family & friends of Dr. Gus Dudley
- Family & friends of Ann Rickard Haller

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.

Church Vocabulary

The Rev. Kyle Stillings – *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers."* – Romans 12:1-2, 9-13

I was watching a cartoon with my daughter Margaret recently where all of the characters are at computer coding camp, and one kid is struggling to understand algorithms. (Looking at that sentence right now has me realizing how different my favorite cartoons were when I was growing up.) Her friends try over and over again using different expressions until the idea finally makes sense to the character. This got me to thinking about how much work has gone into choosing language to describe

what we do as Christians in church and in our lives. (I am *very* thankful that nobody would ever consider asking me to sit on a committee to review the language of a prayer book revision!)

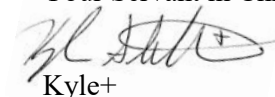
On Trinity's website there is a tab titled, "worship." Clicking on that tells you that we have, "Holy Eucharist" at 8:00 and 10:30 am. Some people call and ask what times we have "service." Lots of churches call it "mass" or "communion," and others stick with "worship." I have sat in seminars and clergy groups that go round and round debating the relative virtues of being specific (to let insiders know exactly what type of worship is happening) versus being broad (to give outsiders a better chance of having some clue what's happening). I don't think that there is one final and correct answer to this debate, but I want to point out that word choice *can* make a difference. Sometimes that difference is minor, but in other cases it can significantly change the meaning behind a sentence.

In the New Testament, the Greek word that gets translated most often as "worship" is the verb "proskuneo" and from which we get the English word "prostrate." It can mean worship to God, or also submission to a ruler or superior, bowing forward to kiss the hand or foot or cheek. That is not the word Paul uses in Romans 12:1. Instead, Paul uses the word, "latreian" which is typically translated as "service." Outside of the Bible the normal use of this word "service" is used in reference to an exchange for reward or payment, and only infrequently is it used to mean religious service or worship. However, in the Bible when used as a noun it exclusively means service to God, and has connections to cultic or ritual practices. We see both words in Luke 4:7-8 where the devil tempts Jesus to bow down in worship (proskuneseis) in exchange for authority, and Jesus replies, "Worship (proskuneseis) the Lord your God, and serve (latreuseis) only him."^{1*}

So when Paul talks about being a living sacrifice as the service reasonably due to God, there is an implication of action that extends beyond a sign of submission. There is real and transformative work to be done - and that work begins with ourselves. Because this kind of service in Paul's understanding is linked to corporate ritual practices and sacrifices (he uses the word "douleuontes" in verse 11 to mean service as ordinary labor), what Paul says should mark Christians apart is our *behavior*, conforming mind and body to the will of God. To be transformed, "so that those who live might not live for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them." (2 Cor 5:15, c.f. Gal 2:20.) The work of becoming more like Christ is an act of worship, and our worship should serve our becoming more like Christ.

All those acts Paul commends, in particular supporting the work of the saints and hospitality to strangers, are acts that ought to define a Christian life of service. As we encounter Christ each week at the table and are fed by his body and blood, we take Christ into ourselves. We pray to be transformed by his presence within us to be healed, restored, made new. We ask this not just for our own sake, but so that we may go out into the world with enough strength to serve as Christ served us, to love as Christ loved us. It is that service which is true worship most pleasing to God. Go in peace to love and to serve the Lord!

Your Servant in Christ,



Kyle+

1* See *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, Vol. 4, p.58-65.

We Want Need YOU!

Deana Graham (A.K.A. "Mama D") – Church friends! HEY! Yes, you! Right there - yes, YOU! I'm looking for some help, but it's something that won't be the end of anyone! Please, please prayerfully consider stepping up and stepping in to be part of something that will put a smile on your face, a warm spot in your heart, and enough laughs to last a really long time. I am looking for folks to join me during Children's Chapel and on our First Sunday Fun Days.

DON'T STOP READING! You can do it! I just need friendly smiles, warm bodies, loving arms, the ability to tie a shoe or escort someone to the bathroom, or a lap that needs a kid. I don't need help with teaching or planning (unless that's something you'd like to do), and I will take you once a month, once every season, once a year - whatever works for you.

If I had it my way, every child in our church would get to meet EVERY adult in our church! Wouldn't that be grand? Imagine how the Trinity family would soar if we all really knew each other! I really think we can do it. Consider joining me, let me know, and tell me how often you'd like to help out.

TO HELP IN CHILDREN'S CHAPEL:

- ☺ Meet me upstairs by 10:20 am Sunday.
- ☺ You would serve as a second set of hands, in various ways.
- ☺ You would be back in church service at the Peace.

TO HELP DURING A FIRST SUNDAY FUN DAY:

- ☺ Plan to be available after the 10:30 am service until 2:00 pm on a first Sunday of the month.
- ☺ You would eat lunch along with the children.
- ☺ You would serve as a helper during our VBS style learning and fun time.

Think about it, friends. Let's show up in a big way for these VERY IMPORTANT members of our Parish - the youngest among us! It would be such a treat for young families if most of the helpers were not the parents of the children. Come on - give it a try!

Here are a few of the people who would be perfect: young single folks, married couples, people who have never had children, people who have lots of children, men, women, teenagers, people with beards, people who are clean-shaven, people with a cane, people who run cross country, folks who love arts and crafts, folks who are kind of scared of arts and crafts, people who do not wear glasses, people who wear glasses, people who have their glasses on top of their head and are looking for their glasses!

Do you get it? *Each* member of our church is a perfect fit! Let me know that you'll take a leap and come enhance this vital program!

Prayers of the (Young & Little) People

Deana Graham (A.K.A. "Mama D") – I am *loving* my time with the youngest among us! I so often find that I smile or laugh, remembering a tender moment or hysterical something that one of our precious children has said. They are an interesting and interested group of young people, and being part of their Christian formation and growing up is not something I take lightly.

I hope you are as excited as I am about our new schedule! I am thrilled for the extra time with the kids during church and the extended time once a month. I did *NOT* like that I had to be away during our first FIRST SUNDAY FUN DAY, but I am already planning for the next one. Spread the word and make plans for your children to be part of the fun, the learning, and the memory-making. Remember that every single time they are at church, being part of what is going on, they become more comfortable in knowing that the church belongs to them, too.

We put lots of emphasis on prayer during Children's Chapel and the kids even write their own Prayers of the People. They are becoming professionals! I'm proud of them, and I love hearing what they add to our prayers. You'd be proud to hear your children, too! For example:

- ☺ "We pray that the sun doesn't explode for billions and billions of years."
- ☺ "We pray that ponies won't go and get dirty right after we bathe them."
- ☺ "We pray that my old lady cat doesn't die for a long, long time."
- ☺ "We pray for Mama D's hair." (Yes, thank you, that was *really* a prayer.)
- ☺ "We pray that we see God in everyone."
- ☺ "God, thank you for our church and that it has lemonade and candy."
- ☺ "We hope that no one gets a nail in their tire."

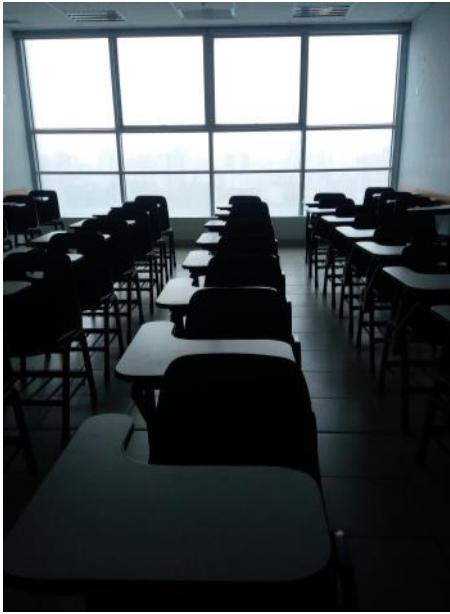
The list goes on; their prayers are wonderful and honest!

During our First Sunday Fun Day, everyone worked on different ways to pray. It seems important to introduce or remind our children that there is no one certain way to pray - that God is listening anytime, anywhere. They were introduced to walking prayers of thanksgiving, movement prayers, a five finger prayer model, fill in the blank prayers, and praying with song. I hope you'll ask them about what they thought about the different options. Here is something I think all of the children will enjoy doing with you all:

HAND STACK: To help little ones stay focused during family prayer, have one person place their hand in the middle of the table, then have everyone else in the family place one hand on top to create a 'stack' of hands. The person whose hand is at the base of the stack goes first, praying a single sentence prayer as they pull out their hand and place it on top of the hand stack. Then, the next person, whose hand is now on the bottom, prays as they pull their hand out and place it on top of the stack. When you sense it's time to stop, the adult (whose hand is on the bottom) raises up the pile of hands. That's the signal for everyone to say "Amen!" and high five the person next to them.

Give it a try! Let me know how it goes. Know this: I am praying for *all* of you and for your children. I want the children to know that I pray for them by name, and that they are immensely important to me!

Are You Over 'Back to School'?



Lauren Blanchard – August has come and gone and we are officially well into the new school year. As the year began, who could beat picking out all the essentials? Folders, pencils, binders, notebooks, and new backpacks! Even if school isn't really "your thing," gathering new school supplies for the year is always fun!

School is a place for learning. We learn new subjects and we continue learning

about subjects studied in previous years. We learn to tolerate subjects we can't wait to be finished with. We may learn how to handle difficult situations with teachers we may not see eye to eye with. Learning does not stop with the different subjects of each period. Learning can be found in every aspect of the day.

School is a place of friendship. Almost all of us can say that our closest friends are also our classmates. It is so refreshing walking into school to be greeted by familiar faces and by those we love. The friendships that we build during school years are ones that will be treasured for a lifetime.

School is a place of trials. Sometimes, struggles with certain subjects or even certain classmates may arise. School isn't a guaranteed place of happiness and bliss. Sometimes, school is hard. Sometimes, school can feel like a negative all-consuming part of your life and you would almost rather be anywhere else. Just as learning and friendship flourishes in this place, trials may seem to be all too present.

When we look at it this way, school seems to be very similar to life; the joy and excitement that come from new beginnings, the love and relationships we build with friends, and even the sad or difficult times we may endure, all mirror our lives in some way. Even though "back to school" is over, it's good to remember and reflect on how the whole idea of a fresh start makes us feel.

I hope that we all can take this idea and apply it to our Church. Each Sunday can be our fresh new start to something. A fresh start to the week, or maybe even a season can help us approach our Christian lives in a better way. We can thrive off of our friendships made within our parish, and maybe we can invite our friends who are not yet part of our Trinity family to come join us. As our friendships grow and flourish, we will begin learning more about each other, our congregation, and our church. Reverting to the "back to school" mentality will keep our perspectives original, renewed, and hopefully give us the wisdom and open mindedness to approach our spiritual lives in a new way.



Faith Formation

Lauren Blanchard – We are kicking off our new Faith Formation schedule this month! Youth will be assisting Deana with the Children's Ministry during Children's Chapel and monthly Sunday School. We will meet upstairs at 10:20 am on Sunday mornings before church begins and will take the children back to their parents during the Peace. On the first Sunday of each month we will remain at church after worship for "First Sunday Fun Day" and help teach Sunday School from 12:00-2:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. Our new schedule begins **Sunday, September 1!** Don't forget - Youth will *NOT* meet in the evenings on the first Sunday of the month.

