The Messenger

Trinity Episcopal Church, Columbus, Georgia
The Rev. Dr. Timothy H. Graham, Rector
The Rev. Andrew T. Blakemore, Associate Rector
Joseph Golden, Organist & Choirmaster
Dr. Aesook Moon, Associate Organist & Choirmaster

August 2026

From the Rector

The Rev. Dr. Timothy H. Graham

Dear friends,

A new school year started, and programs at our church are beginning again also. We are excited to announce that beginning September 13 we will be offering Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 AM every Sunday. There will be two adult classes: one focused on Bible study/theology, and the other a book club format. There will be classes for children and youth as well.

Over the last several months, we have been making improvements to our classrooms upstairs as well as renovating bathrooms. I'm grateful for the work of the memorial and arts committee on this project. If that renovation project is complete by September 13, all classes will be held upstairs. If not, some classes may temporarily meet in parish hall, parlor, or basement.



A great deal of work has gone into planning and preparing for this restart of Sunday school. Every Christian, every one of us, needs to learn more about faith, be instructed in scripture, and we need to meet together in a classroom setting to be encouraged by other faithful Christians. Sunday school is not just for children. It is for all of us. The more adults that we have engaged in Christian formation, the stronger our church will be.

A robust Christian formation program is one of the best things we can do to attract and encourage new members.

Please look for more information soon in weekly emails and publications with details about Sunday school. We want to see you in Sunday School!

God bless you all.

Timothy H. Graham +

Father Tim

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

In Our Prayers:

Parishioners
Claire Berry
Jack & Peggy Collins
Traci Courville
Eliza Ewing
Sydney Flournoy
Becky Goldsmith & Family
Glenn Haskell
Kathleen Bishop Jones
The Family of Rev. Tom Jones
Eve Marcus
Carter Morris
Sam Nesbit
Frances Quick & Family
Meta Rickard
Dorothy Faye Smith
Fleur Stearns
George Wade
Charlotte Young

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.



Friends
Alicia Anderson
The Barria Escobar Family
Bill Berry
Nan & Rick Boyett
Sarah Brown
The Family of Amanda Bryan
Jim Buntin
Leandra Burke
Garrett Tante Burns
Wayne Cartledge
Dana Cason
Phillip Clark
James Cochran
Sara Coleman
Fenton Dixon
Jimmy Farr
Connie Forrest
Larry Gross
Billy Harper
Milton Jones
Christi Kernodle
Kim Kimbrough
Buford King
Chuck Lewis
Aurimar Hernandez Marin's family members, Elys Lissette Ortega de Zambrano, María Concepción Zambrano Ortega, Diego Elias Zambrano Ortega, who were killed in the recent Venezuelan earthquake
Carol Martin
Steve Melton
Eliza Morrill
George Noble
Ruth Pattison
The Family of Rudi Cumiskey Pierson
Andrew Pillar
Paul Rickard
Jim Sanregret
Hadley Scott
Grady Simpson
John Stewart
The Family of Brian Stubbs
Mary Urbina
Irma Versluijs
Bryan Waters
Sam Wells
Ellie Wheeler
Mary & Tom White
Lantre & John Williams

Bingo



On **Wednesday, September 3rd at 6 pm,** come to Trinity's parish hall for supper and an evening of Bingo! There will be an array of prizes for our lucky Bingo winners, and our Wednesday night suppers are a great opportunity for fellowship to chat with student members of the choir before their evening rehearsal. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm; at 5:30 pm, before supper and Bingo, there will be a brief service of Evening Prayer in the Chapel.

Trinity's Newest Confirmands



At the beginning of the summer, Trinity presented **Charlotte Bickerstaff**, **Reynolds Bickerstaff**, **Kenneth McKinney,** and **Rebecca Richardson** for confirmation at the Cathedral of St Philip in Atlanta. Charlotte, Reynolds, and Kenny were part of Trinity's youth confirmation class last spring, during which they studied the Bible, the prayer book, and the Christian faith. Ms Richardson has become an active member at Trinity and sings in the Trinity choir. Bishop Rob Wright confirmed these four along with dozens of others from parishes all across the diocese of Atlanta. Trinity could not be more proud of our newest Confirmands- please congratulate them the next time you see them!

Acolyting at Trinity



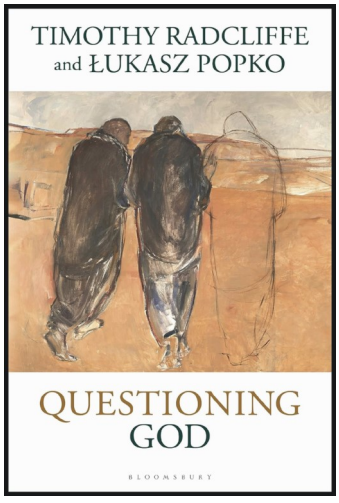
Calling children and youth from 2nd grade all the way to 12th grade! Come serve as acolytes during the 10:30 service at Trinity. Acolytes play important roles during Sunday morning worship at Trinity. **Crucifers, torchbearers,** and **gospel book bearers** carry the liturgical objects used in liturgical processions. At times, acolytes also carry banners or act as **thurifer**, tending to the incense used in worship. Acolytes also assist at the altar each week and wear special vestments, the red cassock and white cotta.

On **Sunday, August 16th**, Trinity will commission its acolytes for another year of service. But new acolytes are always welcome to join a team and begin growing in faith by serving in worship! Contact the church office or Father Andy (blakemore.trinity@gmail.com) to find out more!

Adult Bible Study: Questioning God

Where are you?
Who do you say that I am?
Do you love me more than these?

Trinity's Adult Bible Study will is reading the book *Questioning God* by Timothy Radcliffe and Łukasz Popko. The book surveys eighteen of the most life-changing conversations in the Old and New Testaments. Over the course of these conversations, the Bible reveals how God, rather than demanding our unquestioning submission, lovingly questions us and invites our questioning. *Questioning God* offers a fresh translation of key Biblical passages and encourages us to bring our whole selves into deeper conversation with God. Copies of the book will be available for purchase in the church office.



Trinity's Adult Bible Study meets over coffee in the Parlor on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM. We hope to see you there!



The Introit

A Trinity Tradition to Return this Fall

In several weeks, Trinity's 10:30 service on Sundays will begin slightly differently: before the opening hymn and procession, the Trinity choir will assemble in front of the nave and sing a brief choral piece known as the **Introit**. The Introit (from the Latin *introitus,* meaning "entrance") is an ancient part of Christian worship that formally signals the beginning of the liturgy, making a stark and beautiful division between the time of prayer and the rest of our lives. The words of the Introit and the tune that accompanies them tend to vary with the liturgical season. The introit can be helpful for those gathered for worship to center themselves and enter Sunday worship with a posture of reverence. We look forward to the choir bringing this tradition back at Trinity this Fall!



Please Welcome
Our New Sexton

Michael McMahon

We are pleased to welcome Michael to the staff at Trinity Episcopal Church. Michael will be responsible for maintaining our sacred space and supporting our parish community. Outside of work, Michael lives in Phenix City with his wife Tara and 9 year old twin daughters Bella and Paisley, and enjoys hunting and fishing.

Dear Parents of Trinity children,

We are excited to announce that beginning Sunday, September 13, we will once again be offering Sunday school for all ages at Trinity Church. We realize that the strength of our congregation depends on a more robust participation in Christian formation. Great care and planning has gone into making preparations for this to happen. We are renovating classrooms and restrooms upstairs, installing new carpet, painting, recruiting and preparing Sunday School teachers, lesson plans and curriculum decisions.

Since we do not yet know what participation we will have at the beginning of the program year, our class structures will be flexible. We anticipate grouping middle and high schoolers together in one group, and younger children in another group, with potentially splitting the younger children into separate groups. Nursery hours will be extended and our nursery will be staffed for children 3 and younger and available for children starting at 9:15am. We will be offering two adult classes as well. Ideally parents of youth and children will also participate in Sunday school programming. One adult class will focus on Bible/theology, and another adult class will be a book study format. If there is sufficient interest, we may eventually form a parents group.

Since these renovations that I mentioned may not be complete by September 13, we may meet temporarily in parish hall, parlor, and basement areas for a brief time. More information will be shared about exact locations of classrooms as we get closer to September 13.

One of the greatest gifts you can give yourself and your child is to be more connected to church, more invested in learning, more committed to growing in the Christian faith. We all need to know the great stories of the bible, learn theology and engage with the challenging issues of today's world, and we need to do these things in the company of other faithful Christians. I hope that you will take this new beginning at Trinity as an opportunity to reengage and commit and be present on Sunday mornings at 9:30 for adult Sunday school, and bring your children with you.

I hope you'll also consider inviting your friends and the friends of your children, to be a part of what we are doing together. We are very excited about the future and we want you to be a part of it. You're in my prayers.

God bless you all. Fr. Tim.