

The Trinitarian



News, Notes and Inspiration from Trinity Church Oxford

May 2012

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[Rector](#)
Mary Sampson, M.A.,
Organist/Choirmaster
[Chris Claypoole, Secretary](#)
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[Rector's Warden](#)
Sarah Putterman '15,
Accounting Warden
Nellie Duddy '13
Amy Furlong '15
Lynne Geliebter '15,
Secretary



From the Rector

My Dear People,

May is one of my favorite months of the year. The speed with which our landscape goes from bleak to verdant never ceases to amaze me. It is as if nature herself is telling us the good news of the Resurrection! This is no stretch of the imagination, because we know that we humans have no right to claim that only we praise God. Quite the contrary, all of God's glorious creation praises Him unceasingly-sometimes, I think, better and more fervently than do we. In the Gospel of St. Luke, our Lord himself says to some Pharisees who want to silence the disciples, "I tell you, that if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out." (Luke 19:40) In other words, everything that was made, was made to give glory to God.

The idea that all orders of creation (even those we think of as "inanimate") are, of their very nature, made to glorify God, is nothing new. In fact, it has great precedent in Christianity, and especially in Anglicanism. For example, St. Francis' Cantic of the Sun (Hymnal 1982; 406, 407), and from the Prayer Book, Cantic 1, or The Song of the Three Young Men (BCP 47). Anglicans are often astounded at how often "the Bible quotes the Prayer Book." Cantic 1 is a prime example-it comes from the Book of Daniel, and is the song of praise sung by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as they stood in the burning fiery furnace, to the astonishment of King Nebuchadnezzar. Both of these canticles call out to all creation to "praise [God] and highly magnify him forever."

The Prayer Book also contains numerous collects for Rogation Days (BCP 207/258) and for the Natural Order (ibid, 827). Our hymnal offers songs of praise and thanksgiving for God's creation, such as "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (Hymnal 1982; 405) and "The Spacious Firmament" (ibid, 409). I personally love the latter, as it not only speaks of God's creative power, but also of his creation's song of praise. "In reason's ear they all rejoice, and utter forth in glorious voice, forever singing as they shine, 'The hand that made us is divine.'"

Of late, there has been a movement in some quarters of the Episcopal

Lorraine Henry '15
Justin Klotz '15
Rose McClarin '14, Treasurer
Susan McConomy '15
Charles McGee '14
Victoria Sayers '14
Judith Williamson '15

Choir Recognition

Junior Choir

Maddy Putterman
Megan McGee
Kathleen McConomy
Jimmy McConomy
George Furlong
Genni Anderson

Bell Choir

Francesca Campanero
Alex Putterman
Sarah Putterman
Sarah Henry
Maddy Putterman
Vicki Sayers
Lynne Geliebter
Aaron Putterman

Senior Choir

Lois Annand
Mindy Weaver
Noel Williams*
Vicki Sayers
Anna Henry
Jessica Kasinski*
Steven Williamson*
John McClarin
Clint Williams*
Peter Datos
Patrick Smith

*Soloist

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Church to establish an entirely new season of the Church year called "Creation." The intentions here are good, but the concept calls for close scrutiny. At the General Convention of 2009, a resolution was put forward to make "Creation" an optional season. It was rejected-a wise move, in my opinion.

Obviously, I do not say this because I hate birds and flowers. Those who know me know that this is far from true. I say this simply because in my understanding of what it means to be a part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, we are called to live in unity (though not uniformity), and it is far beyond the scope of even the General Convention to create a new liturgical season for the Church. Seasons are not optional. If they were, I would opt out of January through March. Christians everywhere are bound by the seasons of both the created order and the liturgical order. Finally, a "Creation" season sets up a false dichotomy between us and the rest of the world that says, "Here we are and there is creation over there. Thank you, God, for creation." This undercuts the interdependence of all creation and sets us apart as the primary "givers-of-thanks" for things that cannot speak for themselves-at least not in a way that we can comprehend.

Scripture tells us that "there is no new thing under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 1:9) Creation season already exists, and it lasts 365 days. Let us take our queue from St. Francis and the brave young men of the fiery furnace, and join our voices with angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, singing our praise to God alongside, and not in place of, the rest of creation.

May you have a blessed springtime, Father Richard



Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of Trinity Church Oxford was held on Sunday, April 29, and a full copy of the annual report may be obtained by contacting the office. At the meeting, we elected new Vestry members and various representatives to the diocese. A complete list of the new Vestry may be found in the sidebar of this newsletter. Many thanks to all who agreed to serve in these important leadership roles that help our parish grow and prosper. A big thank you to those members rotating off this year, including John Annand, Pam McCracken, Mindy Weaver and especially Judy Maile (who has served for six years as Accounting Warden).



Baptisms at Trinity

We welcomed two new members into the Body of Christ through the waters of Baptism last month. Zikora Maxwell, son of NK and Chukwuemeka Achike, was baptized on Sunday, April 15. Avery Joseph, son of Elizabeth and Justin Klotz, was baptized on Sunday, April 29. Please visit our website for [pictures of the wonderful celebrations!](#)

Grant, Lord God, to all who have been baptized into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, that, as we have put away the old life of sin, so we may be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and live in righteousness and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Choir Recognition Sunday

On Sunday, May 6, at the 10am service, we will celebrate the ministry of music at Trinity. There will be special anthems by our Junior and Senior Choirs, and the Bell Choir will play the Voluntaries at the beginning and end of the Service. Our choir members will receive a gift in recognition of their service and dedication to Trinity Church Oxford. We hope that you will join us on this special day to honor and thank all those who "make melody to the Lord" throughout the year (see complete list of choir members on side bar of this newsletter). Soli Deo Gloria! Mary G. Sampson, Organist/Choirmaster



Easter at Trinity

Holy Week at Trinity began with the bell choir, a traditional Palm Sunday procession, and the reading of the Passion by the congregation. A simple mass was held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. On Maundy



Thursday evening, the altar was stripped reverently by the acolytes and ceremonially washed to represent the tomb - everyone then processed from the dark and empty church to the Buchanan Building, where an altar of repose (representing the Garden of Gethsemane) provided an opportunity for silent meditation. On Good Friday, we again read the Passion of Christ and venerated the wood of the cross.

The joy of Easter Sunday arrived with a large congregation eager to hear the good news of the resurrection! Beautiful flowers and music filled the church, including a fine brass ensemble and a rousing rendition of Handel's Halleluiah Chorus. Many thanks to Father Don Graff and Mother Megan Sanders for their assistance with the services. After the 10am service, the children participated in the annual Easter egg hunt in the churchyard. Please visit our website to [see pictures of the whole week's events](#).



Easter Cantata

The Senior Choir celebrated Easter in a special way on Sunday, April 22, with a musical offering of Charles Gounod's *Messe Breve*. Each movement was performed in the traditional place during the mass where it was originally intended to be sung. Father Richard thanked choirmaster Mary Sampson and all the choir members for their beautiful offering to God. The presentation was funded through the generous donations to the Music Memorial Fund by John and Lois Annand, Father Richard Robyn and Peter Datos, and John and Mary Sampson. If you would like to help support the Music Ministry of Trinity Church Oxford, please send your check to the church office or you may also contribute online via the donate button on the [home page](#) of our website. Please be sure to note Music Memorial Fund.



Homecoming

We are pleased to report that two members of our parish family who have long been on our prayer list have returned home safely. Dominic Curry, a member of Ruth Ricker's family, has returned from multiple tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Kristin Robyn, sister of Father Richard, has returned a few months early from her Peace Corps duties in Mali (due to a military coup). Welcome home to both of them and all those who are returning from service abroad!



Lenten Outreach

Many thanks to everyone who gave so generously to



our Lenten Offering for Dodwell House, a ministry of [St. Anna's Church](#) in New Orleans. The ministry of Dodwell House will preserve an historic landmark home in the Treme neighborhood, which will house an outreach to immigrants, local children, those in need of medical care, as well as accomodating up to 50 people who are on mission trips to New Orleans.



Marriage Banns

I publish the banns of marriage between David Dignetti of Philadelphia and Deirdre Makula of Philadelphia.

I publish the banns of marriage between Michael Paul Prete of Philadelphia and Kaitlyn Elizabeth Geliebter of Abington.

I publish the banns of marriage between Keith Edward Williams of Burlington, VT and Joan Ellen Annand of Burlington, VT.

This is the third time of asking. If any of you know cause or just impediment why these persons should not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, ye are to declare it. Father Robyn



Memorials

The ashes of [Elizabeth Wyatt Whitaker](#) (March 13, 1914 - Feb 3, 2011) were interred in the family plot at Trinity Churchyard on April 26. She died at home in Boston, Massachusetts, at the age of 96. The Whitaker family was prominent in Philadelphia for many years and gave the Tiffany window over the altar that depicts Christ's baptism by John. Many other generous souls were also remembered this past month, thanks to memorials given by parishioners at Easter for the beautiful flowers and music that filled the church. We are truly blessed at Trinity by generation upon generation. May Elizabeth's soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



Parishioner Performs

One of our junior choir members, Genni Anderson, dances with the [Metropolitan Ballet Academy](#) in Jenkintown and their Spring Showcase is June 2 and 3 at [Abington Friends](#). Genni will be in two of the shows: Saturday at 4pm and Sunday at 1pm. Tickets are \$15 and the deadline for ordering is May 18; phone is (215) 663-1665. Trinity parishioners are most welcome to

attend.



Phillies Phanatics

Last year, more than 20 members of the Trinity family joined with many other parishes from our diocese for a fun night out with the [Philadelphia Phillies](#). Please join us on Thursday, June 21, as we gather again with our diocesan friends to see the Phillies play the Colorado

Rockies starting at 7:05pm. Tickets are \$28 - please contact [Dottie Orr](#) before May 10 to reserve your tickets.



Prayer Vigil

Members of faith communities in Lawncrest have felt called by God to do something about the violence we see in the news and in our neighborhood. Please join us in a walking prayer vigil against violence on Sunday, May 6. We will gather at [Trinity Church Oxford](#) at 1pm and walk south on Rising Sun Avenue, praying for peace outside participating

congregations. Organized by the Lawncrest Clergy Ministerium.



Sermons on Demand

Have you ever skipped church on a Sunday and wondered what you missed? Have you ever heard such a great sermon that you wished you could share it with a friend or family member? Well, now you can. We've created a new feature on our website where the [audio recording](#) of each week's sermon is available, along with

the readings. If you are not able to attend church on Sunday, you can go [online](#) anytime during the week and get some insight into your faith. Please give it a try!



Steeple Restoration

Our steeple restoration project has been completed just in time for wedding season at Trinity. Next time you're at the church, please take a look at the freshly painted cross. The roof, woodwork and gutters of the steeple have also been returned to excellent condition. Pretty good for a 300+ year old building!



Vestry Highlights

At the April meeting of the Vestry, we discussed the budget and continuing property projects. Father Richard thanked those members rotating off the Vestry for their service and hosted an appreciation dinner for the entire Vestry on April 27 at the rectory. Just after the annual



meeting, the new Vestry met to elect officers: Sarah Putterman as Accounting Warden, Rose McClarin as Treasurer, and Lynne Geliebter as Secretary. Father Richard appointed Dottie Orr to continue as Rector's Warden for one more year. The Vestry has decided to move their monthly meeting to Sunday since that's more convenient for the members.



Weddings at Trinity

My Big, Fat, Trinity Wedding! Trinity has 3 weddings in the weeks ahead and the brides will get ready in the Buchanan Building, so we thought it would be nice for our display case to contain pictures of previous Trinity weddings.

So, if you, your parents, grandparents, children or 3rd cousin twice removed were married or renewed their vows at Trinity, would you please share a picture? Please [send](#) a scanned picture or give Mindy Weaver a photocopy - do NOT provide originals. If you are unable to scan a picture, bring it to the church office and we will scan it on the new machine. Include your names and the date. Currently we have one from as far back as 1903. It will be fun to see the changes over the years. Pictured here are Bob and Ann Truesdale (center) who were married at Trinity on December 15, 1945.



Will and Kate

On Sunday, April 29, Father Richard marked the first anniversary of the royal wedding with a special prayer for her Majesty, the Queen, and the Royal Family at the conclusion of the mass. Having been founded in 1698 during the reign of William of Orange and with several

parishioners who have close family ties to the UK, Trinity keeps its colonial heritage close to its heart. We wish the royal couple many years of happiness!

Calendar and Your Feedback

Please visit our new [interactive online calendar](#) on our website that allows you to view events at Trinity by week or month, and in a variety of formats. You can also print out the calendar in a way that works best for you. Please also email any input for the June Trinitarian to me by May 27. Cheers, [Pete](#) (your Trinitarian editor)

Schedule of Events

Every Sunday, Mass at 8am (spoken) and 10am (with music and church school during the service, followed by coffee hour in the Buchanan Building)

Sunday, May 6, Family Sunday and Music Recognition during the 10am service

Sunday, May 6, Walking Prayer Vigil Against Violence, begins at 1pm at Trinity

Tuesday, May 8, Women of Trinity at noon in the Buchanan Building

Sunday, May 13, Mother's Day

Sunday, May 20, Vestry Meeting after the 10am service

Sunday, May 27, Pentecost

Sunday, June 3, Trinity Sunday, last day of church school, picnic and recognition of volunteers following the 10am service

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