

NEXT STEPS FOR BUILDING TO BLESS

One of the questions on many people's minds is "what's next for Building to Bless?" Before answering that question, though, I want to thank all the people who made the campaign to build our sanctuary such a success! The Steering Committee worked countless hours to lead the campaign and visit members, and additional visitors help connect with members and bring the work to fruition.

I also want to thank all of you who opened your lives to a visit. One of the great blessings of this campaign has been reconnecting with our church family after such a challenging season of covid. It has been wonderful drawing people back together! If, for some reason, you did not receive a visit and would like one, please let us know and we would be happy to sit down with you. If you received a visit and have not yet had an opportunity to participate, please let us know and we will connect you with Ed Taylor to complete the process.

Through your generosity, we have raised \$2,711,890!!! What incredible provision!

So what's next?

The first thing we need to do is determine the scope of the project. That will entail two things.



We will meet with our bank and other potential lenders to determine what additional funding may be available to us. Once we know that, the Board will consider what level of financing is reasonable for Trinity to take on.

As that is going on, we are also going to be meeting with our architectural firm, Klassen Corporation, to explore options for the project. We will discuss project items that could be potentially postponed until a later date as well as any changes in the scope of the project that could be beneficial for cost reduction.

Once we have determined the scope of the project, our architectural committee will finish the design of the sanctuary. There will likely be a few modifications to the overall design, both in terms of changes we would like to make and in terms of code compliance. After that, design development will be completed. That is the phase of design that "fine-tunes" the details of things like cabinetry, finishes, lighting, audio-visual systems, and the like. After this work is done, construction documents will be submitted to the city for approval.



Once the plans have been approved, we will solicit competitive bids for the project. Those bids will be reviewed and the Board will then choose a contractor for the project. There is a lot of work to do, but what exciting work it is! Thank you for being a part of bringing us to this exciting place!

Yours in Christ,

The Works of St. Ephrem

St. Ephrem is a 4th Century proto-monastic from Syria. He lived a life-style of giving up worldly possession and living in prayer before the idea of monks was around. He was particularly famous for his poetry. This is fifth and final part of a five-part series on the imagery he uses in his poetry to help us better understand God.



Medical Imagery

The idea of healing and medicine are quite popular in early Christian thought as well as for St. Ephrem. St. Ephrem refers to Jesus Christ as the “wise” or “good” Doctor. And he also regularly talks about the Medicine of Life. Jesus is the doctor and healer that we go to when we are sick. That sickness being the sinful nature that resides in us all from the Fall. Yet, we have been given medicine, the Medicine of Life, which is Jesus Christ.

Let Eve today rejoice in Sheol,
For her daughter's Son
Has come down as the Medicine of Life
To revive His mother's mother
(*Nativity 13:2*)

This Medicine is given to us in many ways and has been alluded to throughout all of Scriptures. Previously, Moses had paved the way for the Medicine of Life in unleavened bread, Ruth saw the Medicine in Jesus' ancestor, Boaz, and of course the Medicine of Life came into full fruition at the Last Supper. For Ephrem that chief symbol of the Medicine of Life by which we are healed from sin is the Eucharistic Bread and Cup:

The Grape of Mercy was pressed
And gave the Medicine of Life to the Peoples
(*Virginity 31:3*)

It for this reason that we are called to “Daily bread” as it is written in the Lord's prayer. Each day the Church is called to partake in that Medicine along with the Communion of the Saints.

The assembly of the saints
Bears resemblance to Paradise:
In it, each day, is plucked the fruit
Of Him who gives life to all
(*Paradise 6:8*)

We saved this for last because this what the Christian life boils down to for St. Ephrem. Clothing, Motherhood, mirrors, all play a role in imagery of Christ and his Church, but for Ephrem, we live it out in the Eucharist. Where we are given the Medicine that gives us entry into eternal life.

Blessings,
Fr. Spencer Stubblefield, SSC

Limping to the Finish Line

(Not taking your eyes off the Prize)

Aren't *Marathons* amazing events? Though I have never run in one and like most of you probably never will, marathons stand out as quite a testimony to human endurance and achievement and though there might be awards for the winner and those that "place," **all** who finish the race, crossing the finish line long after the tape has been broken, *are true winners*. For **all** the *Runners*, the finish line is in itself, the *prize*, because they can claim a very personal victory, saying, "I did it!"

How many times have we heard preached or been taught the phrase, "***the victorious life in Christ***"? For many Christians, "***the victorious life is proclaimed to mean that everybody*** (at least those belonging to Jesus) ***is a winner*** (with) ***idyllic descriptions of victory in Jesus often being colored by*** (our) ***cultural and personal expectations***" such as prosperity, excellent health, a satisfying job, a perfect spouse and equally perfect, happy and *well-adjusted* children, rather than defined by Jesus himself. (p. 175, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*).

Real "***Victory***" is to remain faithful to Jesus and His call upon your life until you reach and cross the finish line, and if truth be told, limping all the way. And why "*limping*"? It is because in the myriad examples of our *brokenness*, it has only because of God's ***prevailing grace*** that we can cross the finish line at all. Yet, for some reason, our vision, our image, of "*the victorious life*" does not match or even come near that of the New Testament narrative of "***another picture of the victorious life....Jesus on Calvary.***" He, who remained faithful through all manner of temptation, deprivation, persecution and finally an unimaginably, horrible death.

"What makes authentic disciples is not visions, ecstasies, biblical mastery of chapter and verse, or spectacular success in ministry, but a capacity for faithfulness.... Authentic disciples may have stumbled and frequently fallen, endured lapses and relapses.... yet, they kept coming back to Jesus"! (Ibid, p.176) And so, none of **my** failures, none of **your** failures, and *thank God*, none of **our** collective failures in our faithfulness as a local congregation, have proved to be fatal.

In the story of the *Prodigal Son*, we find the Father joyously embracing his son in **all** his brokenness, filth and stench, pouring forth upon him such boundless love and restorative grace that the transgressions and failures of the son are not only forgiven but totally and forever covered, erased and forgotten, "***This son of mine who was dead has now returned to me, alive.***" All that remains now is the Father's love and the object of his great love. The Holy Scriptures bear witness of the many examples of both men and women who, though intentionally started out well, then stumbled and fell along the way.

If there is a message in all this for us, that message must be, "***to make the radical choice to remain faithful to Christ***", in spite of our sinfulness and the apparent failures in our daily life for can it be that the Lord Jesus expects more failure from us than we expect of ourselves?! We Christians must come to accept the fact that ***we are wounded warriors, we are wounded healers*** and more often than not, our *woundedness* is self-inflicted due to our dual loyalty to both the *world* and Christ Jesus. And yet there is hope for all of us as we limp our way to the finish line for as the apostle Paul wrote to young Timothy saying, "***I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race*** (that was set before me, and) ***I have kept the faith*** (once delivered to the saints). ***Now, there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.***" (II Timothy 4:7,8)

My fellow disciples and marathon runners, let us always be mindful that the true mark of a disciple is ***faithfulness*** and that trait of *faithfulness* will require three (3) things of us; **First**, to be willing to risk everything on Jesus, **Second**, our willingness to keep going and growing in spite of our apparent failures, and **Third**, our readiness to risk failure for Jesus and the sake of His kingdom. Amen.

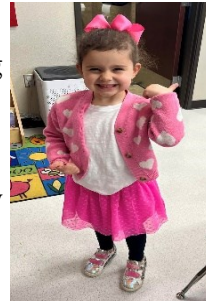
Deacon John



TRINITY PRESCHOOL

We are opening our enrollment registration for the summer session and for our fall school year of 2023. Wow! Did I just say 2023? We are very excited for another great school year! We continue to have classrooms full of precious students, and we have a long waitlist for new families to begin!

Our Valentine parties were so much fun! Thank you to our amazing parents who donated yummy snacks. One parent bought the whole preschool pizza! Wow! Look at our student, Elle! She gave a thumbs up for “the best day ever”.

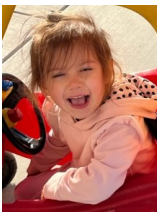


The weather is becoming nicer and it's so wonderful to hear our happy preschoolers on the play yard! Our children love being outside! They especially love to find bugs! “God's creatures!”



February 27th - March 3rd is “**Read Across American**” week! Do you know of a community helper that may want to come read to a classroom? Please have them call our office at 661-282-5252.

Do you know any preschoolers from the age of 2-6yrs old? Send them our way! We give preschool tours daily and we are happy to answer any questions about Trinity! I am always so thankful when a family calls to inquiry about the preschool and they said they got recommend from a Trinity Church member! Amen!



Easter is near and the Easter bunny will be arriving (shhhhhh.....it could be Ms. Jennifer). We plan to have fun egg hunts and pictures of the families with the bunny! If you would like to donate plastic eggs filled with yummy wrapped treats, candy, small toys or stickers, you can drop them off in the preschool lobby!

Thank you for all your prayers and continued support! Trinity is truly the best preschool in town!

Sincerely,
Ms. Jennifer, Director



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Wednesdays during Lent March 1st—29th

5:30-6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

6:00-6:45 pm Soup Supper

Teaching on *How to Use the Prayer Book*



It hurts to lose someone.
Find help at GriefShare.

**2nd Sunday
of month**

**11:30 a.m.
Library**

Starts Jan 8

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone.

Call the Church Office (665-7713) for more information

COMPASSION MINISTRY

This is a group of volunteers who will cook meals to give to those who are sick or need help during a difficult time.

If you or someone you know needs a meal, please email to the address on your left or call the church office (665-7713)



CHURCH WORK DAY

Mark your calendars for
Saturday, April 1st at 9 a.m.

Many volunteers are needed to help get our beautiful buildings and grounds spruced up for Easter.

Bring whatever tools or supplies you might need.

If you have any questions, please call John Karnes, our Sr. Warden, at 808-0766.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

April 2nd

Holy Eucharist at 8 & 10 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 6th

Holy Eucharist at 7 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 7th

Holy Eucharist at 7 p.m.

EASTER VIGIL

April 8th

Holy Eucharist at 7 p.m.

Good Friday

Preschool is closed

Church Office closes at noon

Easter Day

We will have an Easter activity
for all children

Monday, April 10th

Preschool & Church Office
are closed.

In The Parish Family

Our sympathy to...

The Steve Napier Family on the recent death of Steve's step-mother, Billie Rae Foster.

The Anglican Way

Are you new to Trinity and want to learn more about our way of worship?
Are you interested in getting fully involved at Trinity and being Confirmed?
Are you wanting to more deeply understand how to grow spiritually?

The Anglican Way is an exploration of why we do what we do in our service of worship. Pretty much everything in our architecture and liturgy is filled with spiritual meaning and purpose, but unless we know what that is, it doesn't do us much good! This course is perfect for those who are new to Trinity and want to get more deeply involved, for those interested in the Anglican Way of spiritual formation, and for those seeking Confirmation. Confirmation is for adults who want to enter into the Anglican heritage and for teens who are ready to make an adult declaration of following Jesus.

Saturday, March 11 ~ 9am—12pm

NEW MEMBERS & CONFIRMATION COURSE

This course is perfect for:

- Those new to Trinity and wanting to get more deeply involved
- Adults wanting to fully join the Anglican heritage and be confirmed
- Young persons ready to declare their baptismal faith for themselves.

In Confirmation, prayers are offered by the Bishop for candidates for daily increase in the Holy Spirit and for continual strengthening for life in the service of Christ. Bishop Eric will be with us for Confirmation on June 11. Classes will be held in five sessions on Sunday mornings in between the services (9:10-9:50 am) on March 12, 19, and 26, and April 16, and 23.

For more information or to register, call the Church Office 665-7713.



March - 2023



Ezekiel Gatza

Emma Steward

Debbie Gibson
Ainsley Nommensen

Chris Olofson

Marlene Watson

Reginald Bogie
Guy Lingo

Ken Miller

Patti Taylor

Ethan Chase

Jane Kleindienst

Patty Smale

Phyllis Herrick

Our Vision is to be followers of Jesus in the Anglican tradition, connected through discipleship groups, with every member engaged in traditional Worship, in-depth Bible Study, Parish Ministry, and local and global Mission Outreach.



WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Morning

8 a.m. Holy Communion

10 a.m. Holy Communion

Livestream at 10 a.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patrick Beck	<i>Senior Warden</i>
John Karnes	<i>Junior Warden</i>
Regina Pryor	<i>Secretary</i>
Ed Taylor	<i>Treasurer</i>

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OUR CLERGY

The Very Rev. Dr. Karl E. Dietze, Rector
The Rev. Spencer Stubblefield, Assistant
The Rev. John LaMar, Deacon
The Rev. Ron Christolear, Deacon

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