A Devil of a Year

by Fr. Matt

This week actor Ryan Reynolds produced a humorous new commercial for dating website Match.com called “A Match Made in Hell.” The commercial opens with a bored devil sitting in the underworld 11 months ago. His cellphone buzzes notifying him he is “matched.” He and a girl meet in Central Park: Her name is 2020. The devil and 2020 have the best time together: They enjoy movies in an empty theater, steal toilet paper from public restrooms, take selfies in front of a dumpster fire. Finally, 2020 and the devil sit romantically on a park bench in front of the Brooklyn Bridge wishing the year would never end. The scene fades out as meteors streak from the sky hitting the bridge.

Although it may feel as though 2020 has been a dumpster fire of a year and that the devil may be loving every minute of it, even so, God has accomplished much in and through us at Trinity:

- We upgraded our technical ability to bring you online worship, expanding our reach beyond our walls.
- We created a safe second worship site in Trinity Hall in which you can sit physically distant from other worshippers and still receive communion.
- We watched out for one another in pop-up small groups.

Continued next page.

Christmas Eve

3 pm Family Outdoor (Yard)
5 pm Family Communion (Church & Trinity Hall)
7 pm Candlelight Eucharist (Church, Trinity Hall, simulcast outside)
10:30 pm Candlelight Eucharist (Church & Trinity Hall)

Christmas: All Twelve Days
Christmas Morning—10 am
Sunday, Dec 27th & Jan 3rd
7:30, 9 & 11:15 am
Wednesday, Jan 6th: The Epiphany
10 am & 7 pm
- We added a terrific new priest, Fr. Curt Benham to help us care for families.
- Our experiment with Alpha was transformational for 18 of us, and our “rollout” Alpha saw 70 more complete the course, with many reporting transformed lives and several coming to new faith in Jesus.
- We have had a banner baptism year in baptisms of children and adults.
- We are in our second newcomer class since the fall, with 20 new souls joining our parish family.
- Our Young Adults (20’s-30’s) are growing.
- We have prepared for our bicentennial next year, and our historic bell is on a truck back to us.
- We have begun building relationships and seeking ways to collaborate with Black churches in our community to bring healing among all people, including us as Christians who are reconciled to God and to one another (2 Cor. 5:14-21).
- We have been working all Fall to become more effective as a staff in our Christian Ed offerings, our internal and external communications, and sharpening our vision and values.
- We have begun working with Bishop Howard and the Episcopal Schools system to lay groundwork to build school campuses of Episcopal Schools that would also be church campuses of Trinity Parish in both the fast-growing Northwest and Southwest parts of our county.

Here is another win for God’s Kingdom through Trinity in 2020: Your faithful giving. Your giving sustained us through the closing of our parking lot (12% of our income), not receiving anticipated Trinity Square income ($24,000) and the cancellation of our golf tournament that funds outreach ministry ($24,000). Even through those major budget impacts we have fully funded all of our mission partners. In fact, Meredith Belger tells me we gave a record amount away ($187,764) in outreach this year through our endowment, our operating budget, St. Catherine’s Guild (thrift store), the Men’s Brotherhood, clergy discretionary funds, and our diocesan giving (which includes some $25,000 to support our diocesan campus and urban ministries). Giving to Giving Trinity is also giving through Trinity.

Thank you for your faithful support. It may have been “a devil of a year”, but God has done so much in us and through us this year. I am honored to be your rector, and excited by what God has in store for us next.

Peace,
Fr. Matt

Ministry Partners receiving funds from Trinity Parish in 2020 include:
- Alpha
- American Association of the Order of St. Lazarus
- ASSIST-St. Johns County Public Schools
- Bishop Howard Discretionary Fund
- Boys & Girls Club
- Camp Weed & Cerveny Conference Center
- Chapel of the Incarnation: Gainesville
- Chapel of the Resurrection: Tallahassee
- Council on Aging
- Diocese of Florida Bishop’s Institute
- Diocese of Florida Hispanic Ministry
- Diocese of Florida Rural Missions
- Diocese of Florida Urban Ministry
- Campus Ministry at UNF & Florida A&M
- Episcopal Church Women (ECW)
- Episcopal Dioce of Florida
- Flagler Hospital Staff COVID Lunch
- Florida Sheriff’s Youth
- Friends of Huguenot Cemetery, Inc.
- G. Z. Sobol’s Parkinsons Network
- Gamble Rogers PTO
- Habitat for Humanity
- Home Again St. Johns
- Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County
- Hugs Across the Country
- Backpacks
- Investing in Kids
- K-9s for Warriors
- Learn to Read Port in the Storm
- Rethreaded, Inc.
- Rodeheaver’s Boys Ranch
- Share the Feast
- St. Augustine Sailing Sisters
- St. Francis House
- St. Gerard Campus
- St. Johns Ecumenical Ministries
- St. Johns Food Pantry
- St. Johns Housing Partnership
- St. Luke’s Parish
- The Living Church Foundation
- The Pavilion Assisted Living Social Club Bay-View
- Trinity Early Learning Center
- Vibrant Faith
- Volunteers in Medicine
- Wildflower Clinic
- Young Life, St. Augustine
The Season of Epiphany

The wise men were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house, found the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matt. 2: 10,11).

The word, “epiphany” is a Greek word which means: to reveal, to show forth, to manifest. The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the Magi to the Christ Child. This is a major Feast Day in the Church Year and it is always celebrated on January 6th officially ending the Twelve Days of the Christmas Season. This year, this Major Feast falls on a Wednesday. The Season of Epiphany continues until Ash Wednesday, the beginning of The Season of Lent. Another significant importance of this day is that the Magi were the first people outside the Jewish world to see the Messiah which signifies that Jesus is not only the Savior of Israel, but for the entire world.

Epiphanies Everywhere

While looking for a new car can be exciting and fun, it can also be tiring and taxing. There are so many options from which to choose and it can be laborious to narrow down the field to the one which has everything you want. However, if you have ever had the experience, you may remember that once you had decided on one, you began to notice how many of them are on the road! “Look, there goes one! And there goes another!” Soon you are convinced that you have made the right choice. The truth of the matter is that those cars had always been right in front of you, but until you made them a priority, you never noticed them.

The Season of Epiphany is very similar. I have told you on many occasions that there are no coincidences and there is no such thing as luck. “Coincidence” and “luck” are secular words used by people who do not understand just how present and active God is in our lives. God is constantly putting things in front of us for our use. He is constantly blessing us with His favor by making things happen as we go about our daily routine. Unfortunately, we are so often caught up in our daily routine that we do not recognize His work in our midst or we have a very difficult time believing that it is actually God Who is doing it.

Epiphanies are like putting on a pair of 3-D spiritual glasses as you go through your daily routine. You can be sure of the fact that God is blessing you everyday so strive to see Him when He does. Things will then jump out at you and you will begin to see His blessings all around you. Funny thing, like the cars, they have always been there. You have just never noticed them. Use The Season of Epiphany to focus on the presence of the Almighty as He reaches out to you everyday. Ask Him to reveal Himself to you and show you something you have always seen but never noticed. Then you will better appreciate how simple and awesome an epiphany really is.

The Rev. Ken Herzog
Assistant Rector
Release — Root — Receive

For most families, it’s shaping up to be one crazy Advent and Christmas season! Parents and kids are struggling with anxiety, worry, depression, and frustration in the midst of this pandemic.

What do we do when the world seems out of control? The Book of Proverbs has some wise counsel for us:

Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. Proverbs 4:25-26

We worry because of uncertainty and fear. We feel a sense of hopelessness and lack of control. And therefore, we begin to feel anxious, stressed, agitated, and depressed. When we pause and fix our eyes on what’s directly in front of us, we’re able to stop the spiral, re-center, re-focus, and ground ourselves in what we know to be true. Our feet are on a level path and our ways are firm again.

This is easier said than done. In the midst of this pandemic, it can feel as though we are tackling a giant mountain with our children. So, what do we do?

My friend April Haberman suggests “Three R’s” to help families get through:

Release — Root — Receive

Release—Kids are stressed. All day, they are filled with negative information, sitting in front of computer screens, phones, and social media. Anxiety is bottled up inside like a pressure cooker. Kids and teens rarely stop to really think about how they feel or what the underlying cause of that feeling might be. We can encourage them to release their thoughts, feelings, and stress to God.

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall. Psalm 55:22

Cast your cares on the Lord because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

The Greek word for cast literally means to throw away. We can encourage our children to throw their heartache, disappointment, worry, and broken dreams to the Lord because He cares for them. That’s what prayer is for! By releasing, we make room to receive.

Root—The future is unknown. There is turmoil, uncertainty. It’s important to come back to what we know, what’s right in front of us – God’s promises. That’s why rooting in the truth of God’s Word is so important. The Bible is full of stories of hope and of God’s promises to walk with us, strengthen us, and never forsake us. His promises root us, and give us strength to weather the storm.

There are several ways to impress this at home. Find stories of hope and trust in the Bible and share those stories with your children. Read the story of Noah together as a family. Noah didn’t know how long he would be on the ark, yet he faithfully believed in God’s promise. He kept his focus on what was right in front of him. He trusted in God’s promise and rooted himself in the truth. Has God carried you through tough situations? Share your personal faith walk so your kids know you’ve been through hard times and that He has walked before you & alongside you.

Receive—Once we have released our worry at the foot of the cross and rooted ourselves in the truth, we’re ready to receive. This is where we listen.

Be still and know that I am God.

Only in the quiet and the stillness are we able to truly hear and to feel His peace upon us. Start your day by listening. Every morning, set aside some time to be intentionally still, and invite the Lord to speak. Spend time meditating on God’s Word and listening for His voice. Sit in quiet, reflecting on words of Scripture that have comforted you. End the day with the Lord. Sit upright in your bed and ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with His peace, relaxing and listening.

During this complicated, difficult time, it’s important to give our kids tools to manage anxiety and stress by focusing on what we know to be true—that Jesus has rescued us from our sins by living, dying, and rising again. It’s by grace we have been saved! Trusting in this, we are truly able to enjoy God’s peace. And although spiritual disciplines are important in our faith journeys, ultimately, we want our teenagers to place their hope in what Christ has done for them.

In the midst of this Advent season, I pray you and your family will find the hope and peace that only Jesus can bring. As always, my phone and email are always open. Reach out anytime and we can talk.
Daughters of the King

by Pat Falaney

Prayer, Service and Evangelism - this is our Mission. What we do as Daughters of the King Nationally? Daughters of the King, St. Monica Chapter, Trinity Parish are supporters of our four Funds of the Order. Each of these funds were created for a special purpose over the 135 years we have been in existence. The funds are: Self Denial Fund, The Master’s Fund, The Alpha Fund, and The Endowment Fund. Each are collected over a two to three month period and submitted to our National Order.

The Self Denial Fund began in 1897 and supports missionaries and missions around the world. Self Denial grants support missionaries and mission trips for both senior and Junior Daughters.

The Master’s Fund is need-based and available in two forms, Formal Education Scholarships and Continuing Education Grants. Begun in 1922 for women to attend preparation training for deaconesses, missionary or other church-related work.

The Endowment Fund was established in 1928. It is a permanent Trust Fund increased by bequests, thank offerings, memorials and other special gifts to further the work of The Order in extending Christ’s Kingdom.

The Alpha Fund is the newest Fund begun in 2009. This is specifically to support the Junior Daughters ministry. It supports Junior Directresses as they extend Christ’s Kingdom among young women and girls.

What we do as Daughters of the King in the Parish? As well as supporting these very important funds we are also active in our community. We offer prayer services at Riverside Cottages monthly; host the Prayer Shawl ministry for Trinity; help decorate the classrooms at St. Gerard House seasonally; and our biggest contribution is providing receptions for funerals held at Trinity when requested. …… and we pray without ceasing.

St. Catherine’s Guild

by Claudia Smith

All women of Trinity Parish and their guests are invited to join us on December 14th at 10:30 in Trinity Hall. Our special guest this month will be our very own Father Curt. We are happy to welcome welcome Father Curt to the Trinity staff. Father Curt will tell us about himself, his family and share his life story.

The officers for 2021 will be inducted at this meeting by Father Matt. Because of COVID we can’t serve food but we do encourage everyone to bring a bag lunch and eat together after the meeting.

Mark your calendars for the January 11th meeting. Our speaker will be from INK - Investing In Kids!

St. Catherine’s participated in the Yard Sale on Saturday, November 21st. A big thank you for all the the volunteers that helped and to Sally and Paul Nisler who allowed us to use their yard. Proceeds from the sale topped more than $1,500.00 this! We could not have done it without the generosity of Trinity Parish donations and support. Thank you every one!
Trinity Thrift Shop

by Evelyn Fisher

Over 45 Years of Community Service

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill’, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” - James 2:14-17

The Thrift Shop began in the 1970’s as a ministry of the ladies of St. Catherine’s Guild, ECW. Guild members donate over 6000 hours annually. The volunteers, which include a few husbands, donate their time sorting, pricing, stocking on Tuesday mornings, and working 2-4 hour shifts three days a week or more during special sales. Covid precautions are in place as long as needed. The volunteers also do minor carpentry and painting to keep the shop in good repair.

Currently, our volunteer years of service range from 24 years to under 1 year; the most being in the range of 5 – 10 years; there are approximately 35 active volunteers.

Our “quaint, clean, well decorated” shop is located on Artillery Lane, adjacent to the parking lot. Hours of operation are Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10-2.

The Thrift Shop sells new and gently used clothing, household items, toys, knick-knacks, books, small furniture, and unique treasures at bargain prices. Our mission is to provide low cost clothing and household items to people in need in our community. Those in need of clothing who have no money are given vouchers from the church office to receive items at no cost. We have a wonderful opportunity to listen, witness and pray with our customers and invite them to our worship services.

Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers and for the support and donations from parishioners, friends and neighbors. There are many opportunities to participate in this rewarding ministry including donating items, working in the shop, helping with annual yard sales, or shopping in the “best thrift store around”, said by more than one customer.

The proceeds from Trinity Thrift Shop support the church and outreach ministries.

“The Smallest Act of Kindness is Worth More than the Grandest Intention” Oscar Wilde
The memory of curling up with family watching all the Charlie Brown classics on TV is something I hold dear in my heart. And while I have all the DVD’s I will always sit down and watch it on TV.

If you know Linus, you know about his security blanket. Through much ridicule from his friends, he refuses to give it up. During their Christmas performance Linus drops his blanket when he says the words, “fear not.” The birth of Jesus separates us from our fears. His birth frees us from the habits we are unable (or unwilling) to break ourselves. His birth allows us to simply drop the false security we have been grasping tightly, and to learn to trust and cling to him instead. What fears have a grip on you today?

What behavior or routine in our lives prevents us from fully trusting? We need to drop those fears, those behaviors that keep us from living by faith and not by sight.

If you continue to watch you will notice he picks his blanket back up. But why? But like Linus, out of habit, we reach back down too and pick up that blanket. Jesus wasn’t born to remove our fears only when we are brave to let them go.

His good tidings of great joy are intended to last every moment of every day. The removed fear is eternal. Linus parts with the blanket one more time. Without looking back, he wraps the foot of the Christmas Tree. And just like Linus, we need to leave our fears and insecurities at the foot of the cross.

A Savior has been born to die for you and me. As we close the year of 2020 of fear and uncertainty and you find yourself grasping to something temporal for security, remember the angel’s message is still true to this day:

“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-14

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6th there will be a virtual Christmas tree. As their Service project the Youth are seeking monetary donations to purchase gifts in order to wrap them and present them to local families. There are other ways the help support this Outreach Service project besides monetary donations by donating tape, gift boxes, tissue paper and wrapping paper. Thank you for your support. Pictures to follow.

Trinity’s Youth

by Jouana Murphy

YG Calendar

Dec 6- Angel Tree Shopping 2-4pm
Dec 13- Angel Tree Wrapping/Christmas Party 3:30-7pm
Jan 3- YG 4-5:30

Operation Angel Tree

Trinity’s Youth Group is holding their annual Angel Tree Outreach Service Project. Starting November 22nd thru Dec

Get to Know Your Youth

Dashiell “Dash” Christley - 12- 6th Grade- St Aug. Montessori School Hobbies: doing nothing
Who is your personal Hero? Notch
If you could travel free for a week where would you go? Canada
What motivates you to succeed? I don’t want to be on the streets.

Theo Haines -12- 7th Grade - Florida Virtual Hobbies: Dogs
Who is your personal hero? My family.
If you could travel free for a week where would you go? Inverness
What motivates you to succeed? My dogs
Men’s Ministry: Brotherhood of St. Andrew

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is the Trinity Parish men (currently 40 active members) engaging in the disciplines of Prayer, Study and Service. All men, adult and youth, are invited!

* NOTE: Meetings in Trinity Hall are with face masks and proper distancing. The First Thursday meetings are also presented by Zoom for those who cannot attend.

Community Service Opportunities:

Ramp Squad Ministry (Charles Bean, searaybean@yahoo.com): The Ramp Squad works with the St. Johns Housing Partnership and other organizations to build residential wheelchair ramps for persons with disabilities. The most recent ramp (November 13) was the Ramp Squad’s 245th. Coordinated by Brother Allen Ness, we have recently begun working with other area groups to refurbish playground equipment at Homeless Coalition housing developments (more news to come about this project).

St. Johns Ecumenical Food Pantry Ministry (Rich Nowell, rcnowell44@hotmail.com): The Food Pantry Ministry keeps St. Augustine’s Madeore Street Ecumenical Food Pantry stocked with food for the hungry in our area. On a weekly or more frequent basis, we pick up food shipments at a central delivery point or unload a direct delivery at the Food Pantry, then restock the Food Pantry shelves. During Covid-19, the Ecumenical Food Pantry has been kept unusually busy providing food to the many in our community who are without food.

Worship Service Ministry (Dwight Miller, miller6085@comcast.net): The Worship Service Ministry (14 brothers working in two-man teams) conducts weekly Tuesday evening worship and devotional services for residents of the Bayview Pavilion Assisted Living retirement facility on Marine Street. During Covid-19, we have maintained this ministry by presenting the weekly worship services from our homes through Zoom, with enthusiastic and growing participation by Bayview residents. We look forward to resuming on site services at Bayview as soon as possible.

Social Gatherings:

5th Thursday Dinner When 5th Thursdays occur, we enjoy dinner out with Brothers and their spouses, including widows of deceased Brothers. The 5th Thursday dinners have been temporarily suspended due to the pandemic, but we plan to resume soon.

Programs of Prayer, Study & Fellowship

First Thursday Prayer Breakfast
7:30-8:45am
Thurs., Dec. 3

Third Saturday Bible Study/Devotional
8:30-9:30am
Sat., Dec. 19
Trinity Hall
Trinity’s Bicentennial

by Nancy Rossetter

TIME CAPSULE

Attention All Trinity Ministries

We are asking the various church ministries, over the next few months, to put your thinking caps on and work amongst yourselves on a submission for the time capsule that would best reflect your ministry as it pertains to 2021. Keep in mind, all submissions will be subject to available size guidelines.

The following is a tentative timeline for “Time Capsule” submissions:

(1-1-2021 thru 3-31-2021)

Request that the Ministries submit their suggestions in writing to the committee for review.

(4-1-2021 thru 6-30-2021)

Committee will review, approve and notify Ministries regarding their submissions.

(7-1-2021 thru 9-30-2021)

Submissions will be physically presented in final form to the committee.

(11-21-2021)

We will display the submissions at the Thanksgiving Dinner for the congregation to view prior to placement in the “Time Capsule”.

(12-24/25-2021)

Placement ceremony of our “Time Capsule” after the 11pm Christmas Eve Service.

Trinity’s Steeple Bell

by The Birchall’s

Rejoice! Rejoice! Our historic 1842 steeple bell has been completely restored and will be ceremoniously installed and blessed on December 18, 2020 at 5:45 AM. We are again rejoicing because members of our congregation have generously contributed $20,000 to this restoration. And we are rejoicing even more with very grateful hearts because Janet Wesson matched our donations and gave the Bell Fund $20,000 to cover bell expenses. Janet is giving this donation in honor of her beloved husband, Bill Wesson, who was a member of Trinity and is buried in the Trinity Memorial Garden. A big hearty thank you to Janet and all who gave to keep our bell ringing loud and clear across the plaza through the next 100 years.

Listed below are the donors who supported this Bicentennial project:

Martha & Walter Abstein
Sheryl & Barnes Adams
Emily Alexander
Marcia & James Andersen
Susan & Dan Bagan
Miranda Barrett
Laura Barrow

Frances Becker
Mary Lou & Bruce Belmont
Peggy Bethanis
Nancy & Ron Birchall
Sandra Bosselman
Gail & Walter Bost
Doris Brusco

Continued next page.
David & Eileen Cole
Shirley Craig  In memory of David Craig
Diane & Jack Daly—In thanksgiving for our family
Tammy & Chris Delaporte
Mark & Therese Denman
John Kenneth Desmond
Pat & Kenny Falaney
Carolyn & Jeff Felter
Ken Forrester
Kathryn & William Forster
Robert Fullington
Sandy Goode
Sheila & Herbert Greenleaf—In honor of General William W. Loring, Sister Esther Carlotta Buruss, Anna Maria Dummett
Betsy & George Greer
Beth & Ken Herzog
Judy & Ray Johnson
Anne & Clark Johnston
Delores & Lamar Kaleel
Mary Kaschub
Laurie Keller
Paul Keller—In loving memory of Marguerite Keller
Mary & Paul Kinney
Elizabeth & Scott Kophamer
Carolyn & Jim Levoy
Julie & Martin Mariner
Joan & Lee Martin
Elaine & Ronald Mathews
Lisa & Terry McGlynn
Maggie & Dwight Miller
Sally Myrick
Cheryl & Mark Mysak
Melody & Allen Ness
Karen & Dennis Neumann
Elsa Olsen
Ita & Jim Paron
Beth & Chris Pitt
Phyllis & Roger Platte
Anne & David Pounder
Nola & Randall Rahe
Margie Rahner
Pat & John Richardson
Mary Katherine & Randy Rogers
Susan Romanelli
Nancy & Dave Rossetter
Meredith & Richard Schwarz
Mary & Goodwin Seymour
Ceil Shanahan & Dave Greer
Nancy & James Sublett
Feroz Talyarkhan & Caroline Marshall
St. Catherine’s Guild
Betty & Frank Usina
Jan & Dom Vita
Dale Wallace
Kevin & Cathy Walsh
Arthur Wildblood
Gina & Alexander Wilson
Leslie & Courtney Wilson—In thanksgiving for Leslie’s parents, Vernon and Jerry Walker
Robin Zipperer—In memory of Bill Zipperer
Regina & William Zoske
Our Bicentennial—Trinity Treasurers  by Sheila Greenleaf

VAILL

Julia Cornelia Vaill (1870-1923) was the daughter of Edward Vaill and Charlotte Sturdivant Vaill. She was a winter resident from Maine who attended Trinity Church and was a "splendid worker in the Women’s Auxiliary.” There is a marble tablet in her memory on the wall of the church. In family documents, Evelyn Wilkes Vaill Kettner wrote about her sister-in-law, "I never knew her but the stories I have heard of here are legend. She was a character as they say. She was large, jolly, and always wore sailor hats, no matter what the prevailing style was. She came down to the Bennet or Monson (hotels in St. Augustine) with her two brothers as winter visitors and her great delight was to round up women from the hotels and bring them up to sew for the Guild. She would bring 12 or more but she never... The 2 brothers and Julia had been inseparable....each had a house where one’s guests were entertained..... But they lived together on Park St. in Portland (Me.) which was the old Sturdivant home for generations.”

Captain Edward Vaill (1833-1904), her father, was a former seafaring man and his wife, Charlotte Sturdivant Vaill (1844-1912) came to St. Augustine about 1867 and built the St. Augustine Hotel located on the Plaza between the Basilica and Charlotte Street. After the hotel was destroyed by fire in 1887, he built the Vaill Block at that location. Their sons, Edward (1864-1944) and Frederick, Sr. (1866-1931) were also winter residents and were honored at the 100th anniversary of Trinity Church as having the longest membership. Frederick Vaill, Jr. (1926-2017) served as Junior and Senior Warden at Trinity and was a benefactor in the building of Trinity Parish Hall. Two Vaill stained-glass windows were donated: “Fishers of Men” and “Faith.”

(Sources: Find a Grave; UF Digital Collections; legacy.com; Julia Vaill Gatlin)

Prayer for a Happy New Year

May the Lord make my New Year a happy one.
Not by shielding me from sorrow and pain, but by keeping my face bright even in the shadows.
Not by making my life always pleasant, but by showing me where men and His cause need me most and by making me zealous to be there and to help...
God, make my year a happy one.

- GUIDEPOSTS MAGAZINE (Jan. 1973)
I have been participating in the Alpha class and as a result I have been diving deeper into the Word of God. In so doing, two verses have touched my heart within a mere handful of days and they paint a humbling yet encouraging picture. Clearly God is trying to tell me something and I thought, perhaps, He wants me to share that with you.

In my “Read the Bible in a Year” bible these verses from Jeremiah leapt from the page. “For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” It is not good enough to simply go through the motions. God doesn’t want my absentminded and divided attention. Neither do spouses, children, parents, siblings, friends and associates by the way (a needed reminder to myself). It isn’t good enough to be in close proximity and yet otherwise occupied. That Friday when I came across this verse I thought, “I see what ya did there God, I hear you” and I then promptly mired myself in the thousand tasks of a busy weekend.

Fast forward to the following Tuesday, I am exhausted from a couple of exceedingly long days, full of joys, but also of heavy lifting, sore muscles and long work hours . . . in that state I came upon these verses from James, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.” James 1: 2-7.

There is that message again, slightly expanded, in verse 6, “But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.” So not only should I “wholeheartedly seek” I should do so asking and fully believing that God will give me wisdom while completing His work in me. It is interesting how the doubters are described, “like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.” If the goal in reading the bible is to become firmly planted in faith,
For just a moment, please close your eyes, and with your heart’s eye, see you are walking in a grassy field, feel the sun on your arms. Just ahead you see a group of people walking towards you. One of them sees you and when he stops you recognize he is Jesus of Nazareth. He calls you by name and invites you, “Follow me.”

At our Baptism we are given the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. One of the ways to understand this may be we are sealed as Christ’s own forever and thus we are always in his presence. God has promised through our Lord Christ Jesus we shall never be alone. Now, if we believe, our very life, every thought, every action, will become a continuous prayer of praise, thanksgiving, contrition and service. We are never alone, never out of his presence. He knows us intimately, better than we know ourselves. And, wonder and joy, we are accepted and loved, completely and forever. No matter what comes, we are called to follow him.

In our mortal life we’ll experience good and ill. As Christ’s own we can go through difficult times for he gives us confidence and security. Trust his guidance and place your cares in his hands, give thanks as fear, anxiety, and worry leave you. You will feel the grace of security in his loving presence as you trust his promise all will work together for good. We are the most blessed of people for our God loves us so greatly he committed himself to live as one of us, to meet us as we are, and to give himself in his amazing generosity of love to transform us and draw us ever closer to himself. In response with grateful acceptance we can live a life of thanksgiving -- the Eucharistic life – which is to follow him.

Read, mark and inwardly digest these truths that bear witness to the Divine Presence in our lives: So do not fear, for I am with you; my undivided attention if only for a few minutes. What parent would want less? What kind of child would I be if I gave my Heavenly Father less? I encourage you to join me, as the days get busier in the upcoming holiday season, to carve out a few moments throughout the day to be real with God and give Him your undivided attention. I feel confident that doing so will give us something to be grateful for as the year draws to a close.

Thoughts on Being a Follower by Bunny Harrison

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Wait on the LORD. Be courageous, and He will strengthen your heart. Wait on the LORD! (Psalm 27:14)

Please pray: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen TBTG
TRINITY PHONE MINISTRY... a lay pastoral care ministry - telephone check-in for parishioners who are unable to stay in touch with church life. If you would like an occasional phone call, please contact Sandy Goode at 904.794.7873.

ARE YOU IN NEED OF PRAYER? HAS A PRAYER BEEN ANSWERED? IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT PATTY MAGARO magaro.p@gmail.com

NURSERY IS NOW OPEN!

CHILDCARE WORKER(S) needed for occasional Sunday mornings 8:30-12:30pm
Please contact Susan: susan@trinitysta.org or 904-824-2876

TRINITY THRIFT SHOP
Do your Christmas shopping with us! CHRISTMAS SALE Extended Hours through December Thur., Fri., & Sat. 10-4

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
Max Lucado's Life lessons from Romans Wednesdays 11-Noon Hindry Hall

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
Wednesday Co-ed Bible Study Trinity Hall @ 11 am We'll be studying the Book of Acts lead by Fr. Curt.
Happy Birthday!!!

December

Wendy Berger 1  
John McNe 1  
Madison Miller 1  
Davis Alexander 2  
Herbert Greenleaf 2  
Gaye Naramore 2  
Rose Zerra 2  
Meredith Conroy 3  
Dashiell Christley 4  
Micki Fontenot 4  
Cheryl Mysak 4  
John Pearson 4  
Betty Usina 4  
Robert Huerbsch 5  
Grey Clark 6  
Grace Robinson 6  
Kristi Sanchez 6  
Tad Warfel 6  
Benjamin Damus 7  
Katherine Gardner 7  
Charlotte Spellacy 7  
Emily Martin-Willott 8  
Derryl Smith 8  
Levi Russell 9  
Roxanne Horvath 10  
Carolyn Felter 11  
Sheila Greenleaf 12  
Stephanie Modling 12  
Devan Veatch 12  
Bailey Benoit 13  
Norma Gauthier 13  
Lamar Kaleel 13  
Charles Matteson 13  
Susan Nowell 13  
Arlene Russo 13  
Ellen Cimicata 14  
Shawn Dooley 14  
Stephen Whipple 14  
Terry Greer 15  
Ian Mackie 15  
Honey Norlander 16  
Michael Calligan 17  
Angela Green 17  
Brian Keller 17  
Christina Martinez Quinney 17  
Justin Snively 17  
Jack Veatch 17  
Madison Burnett 18  
David Lazar 19  
Cooper McGraw 19  
Shawn Preston 19  
Bill Timpson 19  
Caroline Campbell 20  
Debbie Scogin 20  
Phil Topick 20  
Pat Wieners 20  
Sheryl Adams 21  
Savannah Alston 21  
Patricia Blakeslee 21  
Sandy Danielson 23

Harry Frantz 23  
Rick Rios 23  
Frances Becker 25  
Marion Daft 25  
Robert Fullington 25  
Daniel Holiday 25  
Martin Mariner 25  
Gaven Dobson 26  
Raymond Magaro 26  
Melody Ness 26  
Alex Becker 27  
Joe Naftzinger 27  
Alonzo Reyes 27  
Courtney Wilson 28  
David Strock 29  
Kaylee Wick 29  
Connie Grzembiski 30  
Margaret Nicolosi 30  
Dylan Sanchez 30  
Nancy Thelen 30  
Jane Credick 31  
Charlotte Green 31  
Banyan McGowen 31  
Emily McGowen 31  
Dwight Miller 31  
Sean Van Kirk 31

January

Kate Cowne 1  
Johanne Goetz 1  
Peter Kaulbach 1  
Marilyn Pilarski 1  
Tom Simpson 1  
Realm Team 1  
Linda Turnage 1  
Cynthia Walburn 1  
Frederick Daft 2  
Carolyn Levay 2  
Roosemarie Ferry 3  
Ronald Cugno 4  
Ann Russell 4  
Gloria Jean Burchfield 5  
Brynn Concha 5  
Evelyn Fisher 5  
Tony McDonald 5  
Goodwin Seymour 5  
Jeff Abicht 6  
Richard LaLonde 6  
Carol Smith 6  
Chris Wyman 6  
Angela Bean 7  
Bettina Morgan 7  
Alexander Aviles 8  
Warren Jackson 8  
Roger Tanks 8  
JoAnn Budzynski 9  
Claudia Smith 9  
Dawn Wynn 9  
Courtney Bodor 10  
Donald Lykins 10  
Marie Aubin-Kelly 11  
Eric Melching 11  
Rich Clark 12  
Jameson Holleran 12  
Carlos Sanchez 12  
Lauren Galison 13  
Martie May 13  
Martha Saffran 13  
Sally Shearon 13  
Joseph Weed 13  
Janice Wilson 13  
Gloria Myers 14  
Ellen Davis 15  
Lorne Sheridan 15  
Roberta Welch 15  
Maddox Wick 15  
Evan Pounder 16  
Kimberly Watts 16  
Steven Watts 16  
Dianne Chambers 17  
Mike Hempfield 17  
Jeff Hummerick 17  
Deborah Mills 17  
David Pounder 17  
Amelia Mae Veniard 17  
Robert Barreiro 19  
Isabella Boulier 19  
Caroline Marshall 19  
Charles Shanks 19  
Chris Delaporte 20  
Ella Diaz 20  
Madeline Krumenauer 20  
Laura Barrow 21  
Shirley Craig 21  
Christie Mathews 22  
Thomas Alexander Temple 22  
Alison Cashner 23  
Jane Klein 23  
Thomas Thelen 23  
Debbie Curry 24  
Dianne Gay 24  
Devan Nicol 24  
Jorge Reyes 24  
Sarah Lantier 25  
Bob Murray 25  
Max Finley 26  
Carol Hempfield 26  
Chuck Norlander 26  
Michael Pace 26  
Larry Jones 27  
Denyce Osmundson 27  
David Zerra 27  
Marcia Johnston 29  
Michele Dills 30  
Renee Greene 30  
Karen Neumann 30  
Ellen Cugno 31  
Henry Kirk 31  
Christopher Sinclair 31  
Peggi Wood 31
Sunday Worship Services—Livestreaming Online
7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

THE REV. MATT MARINO, RECTOR
THE REV. KEN HERZOG, ASSISTANT RECTOR
THE REV. CURT BENHAM, ASSOCIATE RECTOR
JOUANA MURPHY, YOUTH MINISTER
AMANDA BOULIER, CHILDREN’S MINISTER
CLIFF PARRISH, MUSIC DIRECTOR
SUSAN LIEBERMAN, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR & FACILITY RENTALS
MEREDITH BELGER, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & PARISH ENGAGEMENT
TAMMY WALTHALL, DIRECTOR, TRINITY EPISCOPAL LEARNING CENTER
CHRIS BODOR, FACILITIES MANAGER
RAY SCUDERI, CUSTODIAN
JEFF HUMERICK, BILL MULLIGAN &
LEILA SEIBERT, BRIANNA SPERRING PARKING ATTENDANTS

Vestry
SANDY GOODE, SR. WARDEN
BRUCE BELMONT, JR. WARDEN
JEAN ACLIN
CHARLES ALSTON
ANN ASHWORTH
EVELYN FISHER
RAY JOHNSON
LARRY JONES
BOB MAY
DWIGHT MILLER
DAVE ROSETTER
TARA STRICKLAND
LARRY JONES, TREASURER
MARY LOU BELMONT, VESTRY CLERK