



Trinitarian

Trinity Episcopal Church
520 11th Street
Htgn, WV 25701
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www.wvtrinitychurch.org

SIMPLE QUESTIONS...COMPLICATED ANSWERS

What a year we just finished! Kevin Kelly ministered to us for the past 10 ½ years and answered a call to take his ministry to Baton Rouge, Louisiana...to another Parish that had been praying for the right person to be brought to them to minister to their needs.

What an exciting time for the future of Trinity Church! This is a period of discernment. We are being prepared for the next step in the life of our ministry. Trinity has served the needs of this community for nearly 150 years. During that rich history, this congregation has survived and thrived in the midst of national economic crises, world wars, social and cultural upheaval, and natural disasters. The founding fathers and mothers of this church embraced such challenges with uncommon diligence and wisdom. We are standing at the precipice of another time of opportunity in our church's existence. Our responsibility is to prayerfully and thoughtfully discern the direction the ministry of Trinity Church is to take into the coming decades for its parishioners and the community.

As we speak someone somewhere is being prepared to answer a call to come minister to...and with...us at Trinity Church. As we fold up the memories of the last 10 ½ years it is time we begin preparation to receive the person who will eventually be called to minister with us at Trinity.

It is said that if you don't know where you are going – any road can take you there. As we begin our process of searching for a new Rector, we first need to figure out where we are going. Your Vestry has been active over the past month preparing to begin our search anew.

The scriptures give us examples of simple questions that the Lord places before us...simple questions that tug at our sensibilities and demand complicated responses.

- God asked Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden after they had eaten fruit from the tree of wisdom, “Where are you?”
- We are told that the Father asked Elijah while he was in the wilderness, “What are you doing, here Elijah?”
- And Jesus opened his ministry by asking Andrew and John a simple question, “What do you seek?” In more current vernacular - “What do you want?”

As we attempt to determine where we are going so we can find the right route to take us there...we have to ask ourselves – Where are we? What are we doing here? What do we want?

Before we begin our effort to identify a Rector your Vestry has determined that our efforts are most efficiently spent determining where we are as a Parish and where we all as Parishioners want to go.

All of us in this Parish are going to be very busy the next two months. All through the Lenten Season and leading into Easter our plate is literally going to be full.

We will be taking a two prong approach evaluating where we are, what we are doing here and what we want. We will be conducting a Self Assessment using a church assessment survey of 85 questions developed by a consulting company that is helping other churches in the Diocese of West Virginia which are also seeking a Rector. Simultaneously, we will also be conducting Focus Groups - ranging in size from five to twelve people - to give each of us an opportunity to talk among ourselves and openly discuss where we are as a Parish and where we envision our Parish going.

The survey will be conducted beginning in late February. The survey will be able to be accessed online...or if you



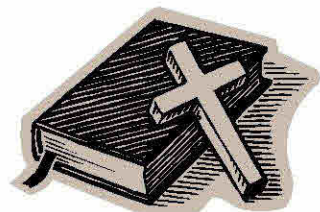
prefer, you can fill out the survey via the traditional method of pencil and paper. All responses will be anonymous. We will have a three week period for everyone to complete the survey.

We expect to begin our Focus Groups in mid to late February as well. We will conduct our Focus Groups by using existing active groups within the Parish such as Foyer Dinner Groups, the Adult Education Class and other groups in addition with opportunities for coffee discussions before and after our church services.

In the meantime, we are communicating with the Bishop to determine the most appropriate way for us to conduct our search. The Bishop has indicated to members of the Vestry different ways he thinks would be appropriate for us to move forward. A copy of his letter to the Vestry is included in this issue of "The Trinitarian." He has made it clear that the Vestry has the final say on whatever steps are taken and direction to take. The Bishop has been very helpful in suggesting that the wise course of action is for us to first assess and evaluate the direction we hope to take. We expect that once our assessment and Focus Groups are completed we will understand more clearly how we expect to proceed with an interim appointment and subsequent search.

Our journey is beginning. As we begin to compose our new entries into the history of Trinity Church, let us individually listen to His voice and prayerfully consider our response to his questions. Where are you? What are you doing here? What do you want? Our response will determine the direction of Trinity Church for the coming decades.

Steve Williams



Dear Members of Trinity,

Schedule of Sunday Services for February:

Feb 12 – Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Donald Vinson

Feb 19 – Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Gil Watkins

Feb 26 – Mass of the Presanctified with The Rev. Jim Morgan

As we begin our search for a new rector, I have been drafted to find supply priests for our regular Sunday and other services. I do appreciate that both you – the congregation – and the Bishop continue to allow me to fill in as needed with the pre-sanctified (deacon's) mass. In this shorten form of Holy Eucharist, some of the underlying doctrine and liturgy is omitted as I have not been trained or ordained for the full service, so I will search diligently for priests and fill in the open dates.

As a congregation, it is important that we all participate as much as possible in church events and offer suggestions about any issue that concerns you. The Senior Warden, Steve Williams, or one of the vestry members will continue to keep us informed as to the process and progress of the search for an interim and rector.

Each of us has a role to fill as we continue. As a deacon, I will continue my liturgical duties as allowed and, of course, work to be mindful of and responsive to the needs of others, particularly the sick, outcast and needy. As a congregation, you are an important part of the orders of the church – laity, bishops, priests and deacons. Your duty is to continue to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever you may be; and according to your time, talent and treasure, carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world and to take your place in the life, worship and governance of the Church. If you haven't read the catechism lately you may not realize what a task you have!

For those of us who have been through a search process before, we know it can be longer than expected, sometimes difficult, but in the end, always represent a job well done. Together we go forward and grow Trinity for our mission and service to the community.

Deacon Jim

THE TRINITY I KNOW

Like a bad penny, I'm back.

For those who do not know me, I served as Junior Warden from 2001 to 2003. I used to write articles for the Trinitarian during that time when Rose had space to fill. Having been elected Co-Junior Warden with Bill Hayslip, I have been asked to contribute again to the Church and to the Trinitarian, and am glad to do so.

The three years that I spent serving as Junior Warden helped me grow personally, professionally, and spiritually. I had the opportunity to learn about the church buildings and systems, and how it worked day-to-day. While I enjoyed the challenges presented (which included a fire in the Bethlehem Chapel, a visit from the Westboro Baptist Church folks, the loss of our beloved Sexton, Ted Blake, as well as several other near-calamities), by the end of my tenure, I was ready for a break. I have a very dear aunt who was Senior Warden at her church in North Carolina, and after her tenure concluded, she attended another church. Dealing with the day-to-day and long term issues facing the church became an impediment to her ability to worship, and she needed a respite. By the end of 2003, I understood her position.

In the eight years between then and now, I focused my volunteer efforts on Little League, which was like a second career in and of itself [Bragging Dad Sidebar: my son Chip hit .519 in his final year, with 17 singles, 9 doubles, 1 triple, 1 homerun, and 44 runs scored. Pretty darn good, considering his paternal gene pool]. Knowingly or unknowingly, I limited my involvement at Trinity to ushering, lipping my s's through my assigned readings (why do I always get Paul's letters to the Colossians and Ephesians? Rose?), and maintaining my position as the earliest turkey deliverer on Christmas Eve. It was a welcome respite which allowed me to take several steps back and really observe Trinity.

My observations of those past eight years have helped me to look at our current situation with a great deal of confidence and certainty about the future of Trinity. Like many of us, I am sad that Kevin has moved on; with the exception of my parents and Jim Morgan, Kevin caused me to contemplate spirituality more than anyone else in my life. However, as he helped us on our journey, and we helped him on his, we all knew that at some point he would have to move on, as would we. And so here we are.

Without diminishing Kevin's contributions, my eight years on the outside have shown me that Trinity was not the rector and it is not the building. It is the faithful

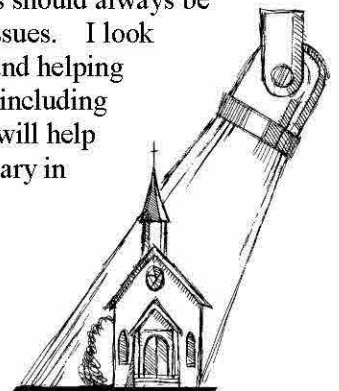
congregants who attend and support this church. To me, Trinity Episcopal Church is knowing that Betty Morgan will be sitting behind me at the 10:30 service, and that I will receive a bear hug from an exhausted Chuck Warder at the 5:00 Christmas Eve Service. It is the care, grace and dignity shown by the Altar Guild as we bury one of our own, or the extended and slightly uncontrolled passing of the peace at the 8:00 service. It is a community, together for corporate worship. It is not, and never will be, one person.

The absence of a rector may cause unease, but Trinity has never just been a rector. If it was, we would have no former rector pictures in the cloister. Instead, we have twelve, and Kevin's picture will be the thirteenth. The pictures in the cloister show that rectors have come and gone and Trinity is still here, and it will be well into the future. It is here because our predecessors had the collective will to maintain a spiritual community for corporate worship and to complement that community with excellent rectors. From my observations, we have the same will, and because of it, Trinity Episcopal Church will survive and thrive.

While Chip may not have inherited his athletic ability from me (that's all Jennings – we Sweeneys were laborers), he does get the benefit of my wisdom. As I repeatedly tell him, the easiest task in the world is one where you have no choice but to get it done. We need to find a priest, and the Vestry is already working towards that goal. In this regard, we need your help, input and prayers. You will be called on to give us input and feedback, and I hope you will participate.

In closing, I am glad to return to the Vestry and the position of Co-Junior Warden with Bill Hayslip. Bill attends the 8:00 service, and since I rotated off Vestry in 2003, I attend the 10:30 service (Yes, you 8:00 people, we do have a later service, so quit asking why I don't attend church any more), so one of us should always be available to discuss building issues. I look forward to working with Bill and helping Trinity grow as a community, including finding a spiritual leader who will help us celebrate our 150th anniversary in 2019, and beyond.

Bo Sweeney



Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday – February 21st

We are having a traditional pancake supper at 6:00 pm in the parish hall. To help us know how much food to prepare, Please let the office know by February 17th if you plan on attending.

FEBRUARY - BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Kelly Sellers	4 Catherine Dennison
5	6	7	8 Margaret Ann Gibbs	9	10	11 Andrew Dennison
12 Lawrence Hite	13	14	15 Campbell Gibbs	16 Rebecca McNeer	17	18
19 Hannah Singleton Bill Zitter	20 Bob Brown	21	22 Chuck Hazelett	23 Pat Eisel Elizabeth Januszkiewicz	24 Kathy Smith	25 Julia Morgan
26	27	28 Susan Shields				

February Calendar of Events:

Shrove Tuesday - Feb 21st - Pancake supper at 6:00 pm

Ash Wednesday - Feb 22nd Services at Trinity
7:00 am in Bethlehem Chapel
7:00 pm. in the Church

Ash Wednesday Community service
12:00n at Central Christian.

Stations of the Cross – Feb 24th and every Friday in Lent at 5:00 pm.
Good Friday at 3:00 pm.

Confirmation Class – Feb 26th after 10:30 service and continuing every Sunday for 5 weeks. Please call the office if you're interested.

Eucharist at the Woodlands

The mid-week service at the Woodlands is now on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm. The Rev. Jim Morgan officiating.

Lent Prayers: Call Us to Humility

O God, rich in mercy, you so loved the world that, when we were dead in our sins, you sent your only Son for our deliverance. Help us in this Lenten journey to embrace your truth and salvation. Call us to humility and gentleness so that we may embrace the Easter proclamation. We ask this through Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God, for ever and for ever. Amen. Amen.

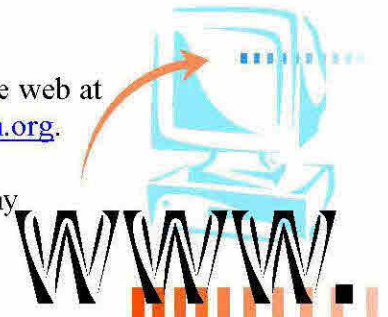
2007-2010 [Anglican Mainstream](http://www.anglican-mainstream.net/2010/03/14/lenten-meditation/)
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We look to you, dear God and Father of us all, and to your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, the head of our Church. We pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit we will be encouraged and made aware of your will for us as worthy members of the Body of Christ.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Remember, we are on the web at www.wvtrinitychurch.org.

We'll keep you informed of any announcements or news.





Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer
Bishop
1608 Virginia Street, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25311
Mailing Address:
PO Box 5400
Charleston, West Virginia 25361

12 January 2012

Trinity Episcopal Church
520 11th Street
Huntington, WV 25701

St. John's Episcopal Church
3000 Washington Boulevard
Huntington, WV 25705

Dear Members of the Vestries of Trinity and St. John's:

The time of transition between rectors is a scary and exciting time. One of the exciting aspects of this present one is that both Trinity and St. John's are experiencing it at the same time, meaning that some sort of collaborative effort may be practicable. One such possibility is that the two parishes might be able to share a clergy couple, as a "strategic appointment" by me, thus curtailing the search process, reducing costs, and lessening some of the risks in calling a rector. As you know, I am interested in pursuing that possibility, with the input and affirmation of both parish vestries.

In the meantime, I know that you want to be engaged in purposeful activity toward the acquisition of clergy leadership, sooner rather than later. Toward that end, I ask that vestries of both Trinity Church and St. John's Church proceed as follows:

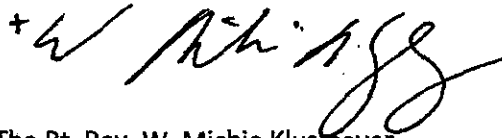
- 1) Refrain from designating a Search Committee Chair or appointing a Search Committee for the present. It may be that you will not need these, and if you do need them, you'll be able to put them in place expeditiously at the proper time.
- 2) As a vestry, I'd like you to move forward with the first phase of the process, utilizing as consultants, my assistants, the Revs. Canon Faith Perrizo (for St. John's) and Donald Vinson (for Trinity). With their guidance, you will:
 - a) Prepare and conduct a parish-wide meeting to gather feedback on how you see yourselves and your ministry, and what you need in terms of clergy skills;
 - b) Conduct a survey in the form of the "Holy Cow" process for additional information on the parish identity and needs. (It may be that St. John's, with input from Canon Perrizo, could use an alternate means, since you have used "Holy Cow" relatively recently.)
 - c) Make a thorough review of each parish's financial status, in the light of clergy compensation packages, to determine how the clergy role is to be sustained.

These are steps that will need to be undertaken in any case, whether we need to do a full search process, or can implement the strategic placement. The knowledge gained can also help us all as we seek to discern the shape of ministry by the Episcopal Church in the Huntington area for the future, and how the two parishes can better coordinate their work and share their resources for the benefit of all.

Let me stress that I do not have a pre-conceived notion of the answers to these questions. We will learn their answers as we work together over the next several months and leading into the next several years.

The two canons will be contacting you soon to begin the conversation with your vestries. Meanwhile, if you have questions or observations, you are welcome to contact me by phone or email.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a small cross symbol followed by the letters 'W', 'M', 'K', and 'L'. The signature is fluid and cursive, ending with a long, sweeping flourish.

The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer
Bishop

CC: The Rev. Canon Donald Vinson
The Rev. Canon Faith Perrizo
The Very Rev. Ralph Strohm, Dean of the Southwest Deanery