



HOLY TRINITY NEWS

September 2020



Father Rob Reflections

September 2020

Dear Holy Trinity Family,

Oh, how I miss seeing you all in person. I am excited about our outdoor possibilities, if we have good weather; but that being said, I totally understand if you wish to remain online for safety and convenience. Online options will continue. This has been a most trying time. I am so deeply appreciative of Mary Hartman and Linda Wirts coordination of the phone call list and assigning of calling roles. Even I was on the List! How wonderful to hear from a parishioner/mutual minister in the parish on a regular basis. Some of you may prefer an email. Please let them know. Thank you to all the phone callers. Your ministry makes a huge difference.

I want to thank our hardworking Wardens for their faithful work and support during this time. Everything from Sunday attendance, taking the role of leaders on Zoom during my vacation, and for their supporting virtual coffee hour. Thank you to Mike for his role in Sunday School after worship. And to Don and Mike for their support of our ministry together. They have been stellar. And a special thanks to all those on Sunday morning and Compline who have taken roles to help with the service.

While we all miss being in-person with one another and Holy Eucharist, it is heartwarming to remember that this will not last forever. Keep that vision in mind as we love ourselves and our neighbors as Jesus commanded us. We are following Jesus' call to sacrificial love thru mask wearing, social distancing, and isolation; and, by refraining from public gatherings where others would be endangered. It is the ultimate expression of love.

Recently our Bishop, and other Bishops, were able to meet online with Dr. Fauci. It is clear that due to the age of populations and the inability to move and clear air efficiently for most buildings, inside worship is not appropriate---yet. Thus, following the science and the law of love, our Diocese, and countless other Dioceses and Church groups, are not entering phase 4 of limited indoor worship---yet. It will come, but it will depend on appropriate treatment/cure and a vaccine. I know it is hard. I know it is not what we want. But it is our reality—for now. One of the many things I have learned from my Vermont family is that the “scrappiness” term we used in our Diocesan profile to send to prospective Bishops, is accurate. And it is true in churches too. It

is an ability to endure and thrive in difficult situations (think of New England winters for instance). It is one of the many strengths of Vermonters. I thank the Lord for this truth in our DNA.

I remain available for visits with you, as I have offered, with a mask and outdoor visit, to keep you safe—just let me know. The point is that I have visited a number of folks outside, masked and distanced. Of course, phone call visits continue and are available too. If you would like to have a visit, in-person or phone, just let me know and we'll set it up at your convenience.

On a different note, SUNDAY SCHOOL during the use of outdoor worship will continue (reflections on the lections for Sunday by Mike Ellis), but at 5:30 pm just before Compline at 6pm—same link as Compline. We will try coffee hour during our worship, but will have to see how that works. This Sunday service will be a kind of dry run to work to perfect this form of worship. So be patient. We will continue this outdoor option until weather prevents outside practice and thus a return to Zoom. Then, we will go back to Sunday school after coffee hour, following online worship. By the way, the evening Sunday compline is not just for youth-- anyone can come!!! Erica and Jacob are leading Compline now that our Cameron has gone back to college. (THANK YOU TO CAMERON FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO THIS SERVICE).

And a big thank you to you all for continuing to support, financially and otherwise, the ministry of your Church family. It is noticed and deeply appreciated.

I miss you all. Thank goodness for Zoom, Facebook recording, and Northwest Access TV for the ability to still worship virtually. Thank you for the phone and email to communicate. Imagine if this happened 100 years ago. We are blessed, at least in our ability to communicate.

Some of you I will see on this **Sunday Sept 6, masked and at a distance, outside on the Sheldon House Green.** Others I will see via Zoom from our live service, and still others on Northwest Access TV, one-week delayed recording.

Until then.....

God's Peace and Love,
Fr. Rob+

“If it's not about love, it's not about God.”

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

Vestry at a Glance
March 9, 2020

Opened with prayer and devotion
Minutes of Jan/Feb approved
Thanks to Don for Pancake Supper
Safe Church training scheduled at HTC
Saturday, May 9th - 8:45-3

Ministries:

Prepare acolytes for Bishop 5/17
B&G - basement floor scratched, gutter at 40 Grand needs repair, HTC basement to be flood repaired
Christian Formation- Benedictine Rule Fellowship - Thank you for Babette's movie and feast
brunch for Bishop's visit on 5/17
Flowers for Reid - not possible to visit Wally Sparling at this time
Outreach - Trash to Treasure 5/16 - 8-3 Set up for Bishop 5/16 4:00 pm
cooking camp 7/20
events planned for sabbatical
St.J. - mouse problem in organ
Worship - Healing service & soup Weds in Lent - 12:30 - 4 niches sold in columbarium - need for group to manage columbarium
Sheldon House - 2 groups interested Champlain Housing, Preservation Trust, Sheldon House not to be a rectory - remaining contents of house to be out 6/1/20 - next meeting 3/12/20
Interest in review of vestry, rector, parish - Agreement distributed - possibility in 10/20
Treasurer's report presented & accepted

Vestry at a Glance
April

- Safe Church Training will be on hold until further notice
- Elevator has been repaired due to a sump pump issue.
- Money that was to be used for Open Door Dinners has been donated to Swanton Food Shelf.
- NEW: **Bible Study on Zoom** - Stay tuned for more details to come.

Vestry at a Glance
May 11, 2020

- Estimate will be gotten from tree services to address issues at St. John's. There are trees at risk of falling on fence and tomb stones.
 - Parish hall floors have been waxed. The other floors will be done as well.
 - Fr. Rob will be meeting to review phases of reopening of churches. Once a plan is completed regarding this, it will be made public.
 - With Vestry's support, Fr. Rob has purchased Hannaford cards to distribute to area Food Shelves/CVOEO etc.
 - Mary W. reports Birthday bags are also being provided to area resources to distribute to families that have children with birthdays coming up. (Birthday in a bag!)
- We have been averaging 120 views of our Sunday church services. We are reaching a large number of people

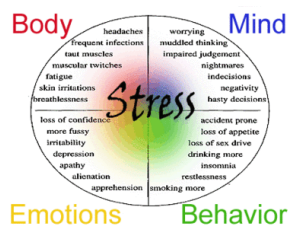
Vestry At A Glance
June

We approved the Minutes for May.
Per Don Fournier, Sr Warden all necessary Covid supplies are ready when Holy Trinity reopens.
We are waiting for Phase 2 to be released by our bishop and a discussion ensued regarding the need in the future for a Health Officer to be appointed within our Parish.
George has installed a camera in the Parish Hall to be used for overflow, if needed.
Holy Trinity worship services can be seen on our Facebook site and at NW Access TV on Channels 1079 & 1080.
The Phone Tree is still in progress. The people that we are reaching out to each week are very appreciative and talkative.
Regarding the televised Holy Trinity Worship Services- if people would rather not be seen during the service on Facebook or NW TV they can join without video.
Our Bishop has said that silent prayer vigils can be held on Church property the 1st Sunday of each month. Wearing masks, social distancing, no talking, and caring signs in support of our neighbors of color.
Treasurer's Report was approved. (cont.)

**Vestry at a Glance
July 13, 2020**

Fellowship will continue calling parishoners
Funds for tree removal at St. John's was approved
Fr. Rob found a sound system that will be used for outdoor services and/or activities
Fr. Rob will be on vacation Jul 27 thru Aug 10

Sunday Schedule
9 am Morning Prayer on Sheldon House Green & ZOOM
5:30 pm Christian Education looking at Sunday readings on ZOOM
6 pm Compline on ZOOM



Dealing with Stress in the Age of COVID-19

When you see someone escalating or you yourself feel escalated:

Read the signs (rapid heart rate and blood pressure, getting red in the face, loss of filter, unable to process sentences)

Stop the action/conversation that is causing the escalation- do not try to reason it out or continue the argument

Calm down the situation by:

Mirroring calm behavior

Taking a break (bathroom break or walk)

Taking a drink of water/meditating/practicing gratitude (reminding our fight/flight/freeze innate response that this is actually not a crisis)

Giving choices; do you want to do [a] or [b]

Verbally observing the escalation response (you seem to be very frustrated, talk to me)

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, who loves us and wants us to love each other.

This is our God.

We believe in Jesus, who cared for children and held them in his arms.

He wanted a world where everyone could live together in peace.

This is Jesus Christ.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who keeps working with us until everything is good and true.

This is the Holy Spirit.

We can be the church, which reminds people of God because we love each other.

This we believe. Amen.

Dear Holy Trinity Episcopal Church,
What a difference you gift makes. Thank you for your contribution to Our Little Roses Mission Society Inc. to support the vital work in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Your \$900 go to the sponsorship and tuition for Brigit. Our Little Roses is dedicated to protecting, caring for, educating, and empowering abused, abandoned, and neglected girls of Honduras. We do this in a safe, compassionate, enriching and spiritual environment. Our primary goal is to help each girl break the cycle of poverty and oppression from which she comes by striving to inspire the girls to transform their lives to become positive & contributing members of their community and country.

Your Gift brings love, joy and hope to girls who once knew only pain, hunger and fear. Thanks for making a difference in their lives.

Sincerely yours,

Isabella Bobadilla

Sponsorship Development Coordinator

To the Rector, Wardens and members of Holy Trinity, Swanton,

Please accept our sincere thanks for your recent donation of \$1500 to Rock Point Commons. Your kindness and generosity is so appreciated especially during these very challenging times.

For all of us on Rock Point, I send sincere thanks and gratitude!

Regards, Paul Habersang



Franklin County Animal Rescue wanted to express their gratitude for the donation check. She wanted me to pass along a **"HUGE THANK YOU"** for the donation.

Prayer for Deaths from Covid-19

O God of mercy, as we live in this pandemic, hear our hearts cry out for the loss of those who will never be mere numbers to us, for they are beloved members of our families.

We also ask you to bless all those now shouldering heavy financial burdens from so great a loss.

In the days ahead, we ask you to wrap loving arms around those whose burden of grief is heavy. You, alone, O God, can turn our mourning into dancing and our grief into joy over the sweet remembrance of our beloved. May you now rest their souls.

We pray that there will soon be a vaccine available to all your people. Through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

For People Facing Uncertainty

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to us all as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you. *Amen.* (New Zealand Prayerbook)

For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts and our nation; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Adam Fournier**
- 6 Wally Good**
- Beverly Kenyon**
- 7 Diane Chaffee**
- 8 Rob Spainhour**
- 14 Allen Monahan**
- 17 Carter Burnor**
- 20 Pam Lavee**
- 28 Mary Wood**



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