



April 2018

Trinity Times

Monthly newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church, Washington, VA

The Rambling Rector

By Miller Hunter



Dear Friends,

Happy Easter! As I write I am filled with the memories of Holy Week and Easter. I write grateful for the fact that Easter is not a day but a season, which means the celebration of this holy season continues for fifty more days until the day of Pentecost on May 20.

I am grateful that for fifty more days we can explore together the themes of Resurrection and new life. As spring unfolds around us, the season of Easter reminds us that all we have is the gift of God. Easter reminds us of new hope, new possibilities, new life in Christ.

I wish for all of you a joyful Easter season!

Best,
Miller

Easter Fun!



Senior Warden's Report

By Noel Laing



The vestry has pledged 9.5% of our pledge and plate income to the Virginia Diocese. We have historically been one of the top 5 churches in this diocese in our pledge level.

A very generous bequest was made by Ted Chapman to Trinity. Ted was a long time and dedicated member of Trinity and served on the vestry and as treasurer for a number of years.

Ted and Renate moved to a retirement village several years ago and Ted passed about three weeks ago. Juliet will have contact information if you wish to send Renate a note.

We still have an outstanding balance toward our Capitol Campaign for renovation of the parish hall. All pledges should be in hand by the end of April. We will decide at our April vestry meeting how to handle this debt. We have several options open to us.

A work day was postponed on March 24 due to weather. It has been rescheduled for April 14 at 9am.

We are looking for a Christian Education/Youth Director for Sunday School and youth activities. This would be a part time job on Sundays and possibly one day a month for teen activities. If you know anyone who might be interested, please let Juliet or any member of the vestry know.

The regions in the Virginia Diocese have been realigned and we are now in the Culpeper region along with some churches in Fauquier and Culpeper Counties. Cady Soukup is president of the Culpeper Region. See her article below.

Outreach Update

By Russ Collins

As part of Trinity's ongoing partnership with the Rappahannock Senior Center, Bill Walton and John Lesinski presented a program exploring the work of our Founding Fathers, including George Washington and Alexander Hamilton. With Center Director, Darcy Canton, joining in, their presentation included parts of local playwright John Henry's work, "Republic For Which We Stand". Seniors at the Center are always very appreciative of such visits and a good time was had by all.

Trinity also partners with Susan Longyear to provide birthday gifts for seniors at the Center. Susan does the shopping and wrapping and Trinity reimburses the cost of small but very much appreciated gifts.

More volunteers are needed to continue Trinity's one-hour programs at the Senior Center. If you have an experience or a hobby or knowledge to share, please contact Victoria Laing, vlaing@outlook.com to discuss how you can help.

Future Haiti Trips: There is still time to join Russ Collins and Mary Frances leMat on a visit to Haiti. They depart May 9th and return May 17th, but a shorter trip can be arranged for individual schedules. Contact Russ at russcoll@comcast.net.

Next Outreach Meeting: Your Outreach Committee meets again on Sunday, April 15th in the parish hall at 12:00. Participation in the Committee is open to all. If interested, please plan to attend.



Bill Walton and John Lesinski



Sadie Norman, Nancy Jones and
Loretta Brazill (of Trinity)

Diocese of Virginia and its Regions

By Cady Soukup

Church Governance: Several Christian churches use a hierarchical form of church governance, in which bishops are the local authorities, and "local" is defined as a diocese or geographic area. The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion join with the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, and Lutheran churches in "episcopal polity." It means that, although we are gathered in congregations, our church buildings and grounds are held in trust for the Diocese of Virginia. There is a centuries-long dialog between the diocese and its churches that can be all of many things: supportive, challenging, inspiring, intimidating, frustrating, rewarding. Bishops and dioceses organize smaller, regional clusters of churches into groups for mutual support and communication; these groups may be called convocations, conferences, synods, or in the Diocese of Virginia, regions.

Diocese of Virginia – Region History: In the late 1960's-early 1970's, the Diocese moved from "convocation" organization to "region" organization. The diocese designed each region to represent roughly 5,000 congregants. Urban regions had 4 or 5 church members in a small area (potentially competing for members), and rural regions had over 20 region church members (often mostly "family" churches). There were 15 regions; Trinity Church, Washington was a member of Region 13 for over 40 years, joining up to 21 other churches from Fauquier and Rappahannock counties, and parts of Culpeper, Loudoun, and Prince William counties. Diocese Regions hold Region meetings of clergy and lay delegates (the number depends on the number of church congregants); and Clericus meetings for the clergy.

Regions were designed to have at least one potentially "program-sized" church with the resources to provide programs or general region gatherings. Communications from the churches to the Diocese are encouraged by regular reports to the Region, Clericus, and Diocese Executive Board meetings. Trinity Church has been well represented in Region 13 by the Rev. Jenks Hobson since the beginning of the regions until his retirement. More recently, Mary Frances LeMat was elected the Region 13 lay representative to the Diocese Executive Council for 2 years, ending in 2016. Mike Mahoney is the current Trinity lay delegate; Carolyn

Emerick is the alternate lay delegate; Russ Collins was the Region 13 Treasurer for 2 years; I was the lay delegate to Region 13 for 2 years until I was elected President of Region 13 for 2106-2017.

Region Re-Visioning: Starting in 2015, Diocese formed a committee to examine its regions, listen to region delegates and members, and to re-vision the structure. As of late 2017, there are 16 regions, each named for its largest city or town. A list of the new Regions can be seen online at:

<http://www.thediocese.net/who-we-are/regional-structures/>

Since many of the regions are brand new, there will be more information in the months and years ahead!

Culpeper Region: Trinity Church, Washington, is in the Culpeper Region, formed from parts of Region 1 (Charlottesville) and Region 13 (Leesburg-Ashburn-Herndon-Haymarket-Warrenton). The Very Rev. Benson Shelton (St. Stephen's Church, Culpeper) is the new Culpeper Region Dean; the Rev. Ben Maas (St. James' Church, Warrenton) is the new Culpeper Region delegate to the Diocesan Executive Board; the diocese asked me to serve again as Region President as we work on our missions to serve our Lord.

There are 10 churches in the Culpeper region: St. James', Warrenton is the largest church; St. Stephen's, Culpeper is the second largest; unexpectedly – Trinity Church, Washington is the third largest church in the region! The rest of the churches are: Christ Church, Brandy Station; Emmanuel Church, Rapidan; Grace Church, Casanova; Little Fork Church, Rixeyville; Piedmont / Bromfield Parish, Madison; St. Luke's, Remington; St. Stephen's, Catlett. Several of the churches do not have web pages or emails for their leaders.

Trinity Church has become part of a rural region – originally all of the Culpeper region's churches were in regions dominated by growing communities with several larger churches; we are all now in a region of smaller, rural churches.

The first Culpeper Region meeting is April 10th. We invite your prayers and support for our fellow region churches and our new tasks.

Tidbits of Trinity's History

By Loraine Channing

The brass candleholders on the altar for this Easter season, Easter Sunday through Pentecost Sunday, are from Emmanuel Episcopal Church (1902-1967) in Sperryville. The church was founded by Harrie Smoot, the tannery owner, and Dr. William H Amiss. Folklore has it that the eight mile long horse and carriage ride to Woodville was too arduous a trip over unpaved roads for the two rich men to make each week, so they started a church. But, Sperryville at the turn of the twentieth century was a prosperous hamlet that was able to support its own Episcopal congregation.

The stained glass window over our altar is dedicated to the memory of Harrie Smoot and William Amiss. It was moved to Trinity in 1982. After a lengthy legal process, Emmanuel was sold to John A and Judith Tweel in 1987. The window, from the 1930s, depicts the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. At the top of the window is a dove, the symbol of the Holy Spirit. It is taken from the biblical account of Jesus' baptism, where the Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove. In the left window is a shell, the symbol of baptism. John's hand is pointed to Jesus. *Ecce Dei* translates as behold God. "Make ye ready..." is from Mark 1:3. The flames are again a symbol of the Holy Spirit and zeal. In the right window, Jesus says of himself, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." (Rev 22.13) Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, while Omega is the last. Putting the two together, they represent the eternity of Christ as the Son of God. Mark 1:11 contains "Thou art my ..." *Angus Dei* translates as Lamb of God.

Sources: Buntin, M. Elizabeth, Mission: A Study of the Churches of Bromfield Parish. Allison, W. Francis, notes and sermons, 1937, 1938.