



# Trinity Times

Monthly newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church, Washington, VA

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## The Rambling Rector

By Miller Hunter



Dear Friends,

The month of May is a time of many celebrations – the coming of spring, Mother’s Day, and the upcoming high school graduations. This year we have three graduating seniors in our parish – Virginia Wyatt, Harmony Lindstrom, and Landon Thede. In addition, Ben Estes will graduate from VMI.

Across the years all four have made significant and lasting contributions to the life of our parish. They have served as acolytes and youth leaders. We are grateful and thankful for the many ways they have contributed to Trinity Church. We have watched them mature into remarkable young men and women. I know I speak for the entire parish in expressing our pride in their many accomplishments. We will all look forward to welcoming them home to Trinity in future years.

Best,  
Miller

## Senior Warden’s Report

By Noel Laing



The Capital Campaign for renovating the parish hall closed at the end of April. The vestry considered several ways to pay the balance of \$33,000 on the line of credit at the bank. We have decided to use funds from our trust account in Richmond to pay this.

Renovations at Trinity House are nearing completion. They include new wood floors in the Chapman Room and rector’s office, refinishing floors in the office, new ceiling fixtures and painting the downstairs. We removed the kitchen counters and two redundant doors in the Chapman Room as well.

The Family Parish Retreat will be August 10-12. If you would like to attend, please contact Juliet for particulars. Some financial assistance may be available.

Our congregational meeting will be held on May 20. The meeting will follow breakfast at the usual time and be over by the 10:30am service. We will elect four new vestry members at this time.

We are looking for new members (men as well as women) to serve on the Garden Guild. If you are interested, please contact Carolyn Emerick.

## Outreach Update

By Russ Collins

### TROUIN VILLAGE FARM: A Critical Year Towards Self-Sustaining Ministry

Since 2013, Trinity has partnered with Voix et Actions in Haiti on several small economic development projects. In 2017, we took the bold step forward to partner with Voix et Actions to establish the Trouin Village Farm. We hope the Farm will eventually become self-sustaining – or nearly so – while fostering economic development and social justice in Trouin. Our vision is for the Farm to sell at a discount: Goats, Pigs, Hens, and Fish to local partners – mostly women – that they can resell at a profit to improve their lives.

In 2017, Voix et Actions worked to construct shelters, lease land, purchase animals and establish procedures to operate the Farm.

Benefits reported thus far:



Mussy is the mother of a little girl. She attended the St Marc Trade School. She was able to purchase and resell 4 cases of hens, producing a benefit of \$53 in two weeks. Prior to the Farm, she was making only \$39 a month selling food products at the local market.

Lilyane, the mother of 4 and the sole supporter for her family, sold 4 cases of hens earning a \$53 profit in two weeks. She normally earns about \$47 a month reselling food products at the local market.



Shella is an unmarried mother with 3 children. She was unemployed but received a microloan from the Village Farm which allowed her to purchase and resell 2 cases of hens for a net benefit of \$25

In addition to individual income benefits to local women, the Farm employs a caretaker and assistant and produces food, using land that would otherwise not be used for farming. The operation of the Farm also increases the availability of food/protein in the local market.

Mary Frances and Russ Collins will visit the Farm in May to review the work thus far and the way forward.

Next Outreach Meeting: Your Outreach Committee meets again on Sunday, June 3rd in the Chapman Room at 12:00. Participation in the Committee is open to all. If interested, please plan to attend.

## **Rappahannock Matriarch turns 95**

By Kay Wilson

Recently, Mrs. Lois Snead celebrated her remarkable life of 95 years. Having raised her five children, Rayner Jr., Dana, Sam, Bill, and Libby, in the county, she now boasts 14 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Lois is the widow of Judge Rayner Snead, a native son of Gid Brown Hollow. The young couple met in 1940 when Rayner was assigned to the staff of a military school in Missouri to teach motor machinists. They married in 1941 when Lois, as a new bride, headed east with her husband and set up home in his native Rappahannock. Soon after, husband Rayner was deployed overseas by the US Navy, and on the same day that Rayner caught sight of the Rock of Gibraltar on July 10, 1942, Lois gave birth to their first child. For most of her seventy-seven years in Rappahannock County, Lois has lived in the town of Washington, most notably at Fairlea Farm.



Born and raised in Independence, Missouri, Lois was a contemporary and casual friend of first daughter Margaret Truman. Lois remembers with a chuckle that as teenagers, a certain young man was spending time on her family's front porch, when he suddenly moved to the front porch of the Truman home. Apparently, the fickle suitor had ambitions to enter West Point, and at the time, Margaret Truman's father was a US Senator who could make the appointment. Along with two other girls, Lois was the first female admitted to the School of Agriculture at the University of Missouri. The outbreak of the Second World War abruptly halted the degree course, because all the male students left for the military and so the engineering and agricultural courses were suspended.

Blessed with high intelligence, wit, wisdom, a "can-do" attitude, and a positive outlook, Mrs. Snead has been a lifelong contributor to the Rappahannock Community. She was a co-founder of the grand Rappahannock autumnal tradition, now in its 62nd year, of the annual House Tour and Dried Flower Sale. Lois reports that every year the flowers used up a lot of her time, as she planted, grew, and harvested the flowers, then she dried them, and finally arranged them. Her giftedness and output with the dried flowers was unparalleled, and notably, she celebrated her eightieth year by making eighty dried flower arrangements. A stalwart of Trinity Episcopal Church during more than seven decades, Lois has done it all-sung in the Choir, served on the vestry, altar guilds, flower guilds, the Churchwomen groups, and she spearheaded fund raising for the Parish Hall and at least two organs. Lois says that when she looks at an organ, she sees nothing but stacks and stacks of pies. To raise money, she and the churchwomen baked the pies, sold some of the pies, but mostly, they bought back the pies themselves, then made their families eat the pies. At well over ninety, Mrs. Snead was a pivotal member of the search committee which chose and called Trinity's current Rector, the Rev. Miller Hunter. Just a few months ago, Lois conducted a forum during which she enthralled an

audience of sixty people with her reminiscences of the history of the church and amusing descriptions of the foibles of its pastors during the last seventy plus years.

If you visit the Book Barn, no doubt you have met Lois and her current dog, Itty Bitty. Lois continues to volunteer there most Saturday mornings. Lois instigated getting the barn built, because she says, she got tired of lugging the books back and forth from the library.

The early studies and love of agriculture were soon revisited. For many years, Lois had a flock of 300 sheep, which she raised on three different farms, and her own apple orchard. She is an expert in sheep and apples. Sheep shearing was a necessity, so the wool was sold to pay for the sheep, and the lambs, for their meat and the profit. Lois used to grade the apples herself with a hand cranked grader, because, she explained, if one had forty boxes of apples for sale, and just a couple of too-small apples were discovered in one box, the entire consignment of 40 boxes would be rejected. Husband Rayner encouraged his wife to go ahead if she wished to be a farmer, but insisted that she do so independently because he had worked too hard to escape the hard scrabble life of farming up the Hollow. Instead, Rayner set up a law practice, and later became the renowned Judge of Rappahannock County. Lois remembers the early years of helping her husband with his law practice, when often she would be typing the dockets while rocking the baby in its cradle underneath with her foot.

Asked to describe a couple of changes in Rappahannock that she has observed during her seventy-seven years of living here, Lois regretted that people don't seem to trust others or be able to depend on their neighbors as in the old days. As an example, she said that formerly, anyone could walk across anyone else's land, and no-one could care less. They would walk across people's property to get up to the newly formed Shenandoah Park, for instance. Nowadays, Lois has observed "No Trespassing" signs posted all around the county. Yesteryear, there were no retirees or people from the city who came out to Rappahannock, which might explain the change.

But, Lois reiterated that she likes to look for the positive. A wonderful big change that she cited is the volunteerism that now exists in Rappahannock. "The fact that people care so much for others never ceases to amaze me."

What is the secret of this remarkable woman who continues to learn (she recently completed a four year course in Theology which has withered students half her age,) to serve others, and to be independent? It might be her indubitably strong faith, it might be the regular servings of bacon she enjoys for breakfast, or perhaps, the weekly games of highly competitive bridge which she plays with friends. Of Lois, fellow bridge players commented, "She doesn't suffer fools gladly!", "She is smart and interesting," "She is a lady. Lois is kind and helpful."

Last week, a few of Lois's legions of friends and admirers accompanied her over the mountain to Luray, where a birthday lunch was held to celebrate an amazing woman. The Reverend Miller Hunter gave both the blessing and a moving tribute to Lois, which was followed by a delectable Mimslyn meal, laughter, camaraderie, and gratitude.



Surrounding Lois Snead in the birthday celebration photo are Doug and Margaret Baumgardner, Miller and Carol Hunter, Noel and Charlotte Laing, Walt and Susan Longyear, Jeannie McNear, Nancy and Chuck Weitz, Helen Williams, Ewen and Kay Wilson.



**Summer Forum Schedule**

June 3 – Toward a Wider Communion - John Kilgore  
June 10 – Migration & Immigration – Tuck Grinnell  
June 17 – The Forever Fight – James Kilby  
June 24 – No One Left to Call: The Homeless - Miller Hunter

Confirmation  
Sunday,  
September 16

Parish Family Retreat  
August 10-12  
Shrine Mont

**Spring Clean-up Day:** Thank you to the many hands that made for light work!



Trinity Episcopal Church  
379 Gay Street  
PO Box 299  
Washington, VA 22747

Sunday Schedule:  
8:30am Quiet Service HE Rite I  
9:15am Breakfast  
9:45 am Christian Education  
10:30am Traditional Service HE Rite II