



Winter 2020

Trinity Times

Monthly newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church, Washington, VA

The Rambling Rector

By Miller Hunter

Earlier in my life I tended to dread the season of Lent. It seemed too solemn and uncheerful, but as I have gotten older I find that I actually look forward to Lent. I eagerly anticipate our community Lenten preaching series on Wednesday evenings and the celebration of Holy Week. I anticipate the invitation to enter into a season of reflection and prayer, an intentional period to focus on my relationship with God.



Our Adult Forum series during Lent is designed to assist us in our Lenten journeys. Our theme for the season of Lent is *Ancient Practices for a Contemporary World*. Inspired by Brian McLaren's book, *Finding Our Way Again*, we will turn to the ancient monastic traditions for guidance and inspiration. How can the practices of solitude or daily prayer deepen your own spiritual life? Are the ancient practices still viable for a contemporary world? These are some of the questions we'll consider together.

Join us on Sunday mornings for the Adult Forum at 9:45am (breakfast at 9:15am) and for worship at 8:30am and 10:30am. Bring your children, grandchildren, and your neighbor's child for our youth class at 9:45am. (taught with Washington Baptist alternating between their church and ours) In short, make church attendance a part of your Lenten discipline this year.

I am excited about what we will experience together this Lent.

Best,

Miller

Concert Series at Trinity:

Sunday, April 19, 2020 @4pm

The Madison Chamber Players



Come in, Come in!! Our door is open!

In recent weeks, you may have noticed that the Trinity House front door was in need of repair. A special THANK YOU! goes out to Steve Ellis and helpers for fixing the lockset and frame. We had been limping along with creative ways of closing the church office door and Steve came to the rescue! We are grateful for this work and have a new appreciation for the ease of coming and going!



Trinity gets a new cross!

Under the direction of Harold Beebout, Chris Irmen fabricated a new cross for the steeple. The easiest thing was to take off the old cross that had been leaning precariously for many years. The more difficult job was installation. The Sperryville Fire Department graciously volunteered their ladder truck to get Chris in place to install the new cross which should last for many decades to come. What a great way to kick-off a new beginning in 2020!



Francis Furbush Inducted into National Junior Honor Society at Randolph-Macon Academy

December 11, 2019

Francis Webb Furbush of Huntly, an eighth-grade student at Randolph-Macon Academy (R-MA), was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society on November 22, 2019. Webb is the son of Barry M. Fletcher of Huntly.

To be inducted into the National Honor Society or the National Junior Honor Society at R-MA, a student must have a GPA of 3.7 or greater, and must have demonstrated good character, leadership, and service to others.

BLUE & GOLD BANQUET



Trinity's Cub Scout Pack 123 enjoyed a festive banquet on Saturday evening, celebrating the 110th Birthday of Scouting. Families gathered for a potluck meal and awards ceremony highlighting individual scout achievements. The next morning, several families attended the 10:30 worship service for Scout Sunday.

The King’s Childrens Home

By Kay Wilson

During the Christmas Holidays, newborn iXhosa baby, Iqhawe, (“Hero” in English) was brought to The Kings Childrens Home in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Iqhawe had been thrown into an outdoor pit latrine, and abandoned. Just a few hours old, and still with her umbilical cord attached, Iqhawe was treated for sepsis, and miraculously, she soon was able to suckle. Like all the babies they rescue, The Kings Childrens Home is nurturing this innocent little baby with protection, love, food, clothing, medical care, housing. However, as Tracy King told me, “I know how to look after the babies, but I need help with fund raising.”



Trinity continues to help with the fundraising. In January 2020 we sent out \$10,650 from the following contributions:

- Trinity Outreach Committee \$2000
- Trinity Churchwomen (ECW) \$1000
- Brotherhood of St Andrew \$500
- 32 individual Trinity parishioners \$4095
- 15 Family and Friends. \$3055
- **TOTAL. \$10,650**

The Kings feel particularly blessed and encouraged that 47 individuals have “caught their vision” and supported them.

With the difficulties in the South African economy and the weakness of the South African Rand (ZAR), your US Dollars will stretch a very long way to help the babies. Our funding this year is being allocated for:

- Two Kazin huts. One for a therapy room for special needs toddlers, one for a classroom for special needs.
- New washing machine. Can you imagine the laundry for 48 babies and toddlers?
- Wheelchair (partial payment) for Andy, a cerebral palsy child.
- Repair of air conditioners. A/c is vital for life inside the converted ship containers.
- Supplies of formula, nappies(diapers) food, cleaning products.
- partial payment of school fees for 6 children entering kindergarten.

Bless you for making a huge difference in the lives of the African Babies.



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**The Diocesan Visioning Process**

By Cady Soukup

The four foci of the diocesan Visioning process this year include:

- \* Healing across differences and including all
- \* Strengthening our financial health (diocese level)
- \* Sharing the Faith of Jesus with youth and others
- \* Honoring and caring for God's creation



The diocese is in the process of gathering ideas, observations, questions, or comments about the focus points; send your ideas to [vision@thediocese.net](mailto:vision@thediocese.net) or attend one of the next two visioning sessions, more information at: <http://www.thediocese.net/news/diocesan-visioning-tour-2020/>

Attached is a report on the beginning of the new diocese commitment to racial healing. It is only one aspect of the diocesan commitment to the first focus item above.

## Diocese of Virginia – Racial Healing

The national Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Virginia identify Racial Healing as a priority (recognizing and healing racial inequalities). The Diocese convened a session on January 25<sup>th</sup> led by Dr. Catherine Meeks, Executive Director, *The Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing* in the hope of re-invigorating local racial healing ministries Dr. Meeks has researched, taught, and worked in racial reconciliation and healing for over 50 years. The diocese has engaged Dr. Meeks to provide training for a new program, similar to what she has done for other Episcopal dioceses, including the Diocese of Atlanta.

Dr. Meeks began by acknowledging that her greatest teacher is her experience of rheumatoid arthritis, which teaches her daily that she must take care of herself (personal healing) to be able to take on the work of community healing. In taking care of herself, she has learned, the hard way, to establish a daily pattern of spiritual formation, healing, being aware of herself, and being aware of her actions and reactions.

Bishop Wright of the Atlanta diocese calls what we must do “Mobilizing courage” and adds that we must renew that mobilization every day. We must understand our basic, foundational motivation; for Dr. Meeks it is a response to God’s call: “Yes. I will be faithful.” We must explore what the question is that God wants us to answer as an individual. We must recognize that we are living our own story, not a story someone else has written for us. We must recognize and acknowledge our shadow motivations (sometimes referred to as “deep” or “dark” or “antagonistic” motivations). We must understand why we care. We do not get to quit!

We were introduced to the fine differences between concepts such as “prejudice,” racism,” “implicit bias,” and “internalized oppression,” details which become important when conversing on difficult topics.

Dr. Meeks asked basic questions of us:

What is the one thing each of us is **able** to do?

What is the one thing each of us **will** do immediately to move this work forward.

Bishops Susan and Jennifer attended the session, as did diocesan staff Aisha Huertas and Sierra Gore. 14 of the 16 diocese regions and a majority of the Executive Board were also present. The next step is to find diocesan trainers, and setting up a “train the trainers” class to be led by Dr. Meeks.

### Resources

Dr. Meeks provided many resources, a few of which are listed:

Episcopal Church: <https://episcopalchurch.org/racial-reconciliation/>

The Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing: <http://centerforracialhealing.org/>

### Films

*White Like Me* Tim Wise. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oV-EDWzJuzk>

*Selma* Ava DuVernay, director. Paul Webb, writer. Trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6t7vVTxaic>

*Traces of the Trade* Trailer <http://www.pbs.org/pov/watch/tracesofthetrade/>

*Banished* Trailer <https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/banished/>

13<sup>th</sup> (Mass incarceration) Trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6IXQbXPO3I>

### Books

*An Indigenous People’s History of the United States* 2014. Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

*Just Mercy* 2014. Bryan Stevenson

*The Warmth of Other Suns* 2010. Isabel Wilkerson

*I know Why the Caged Bird Sings* 2009. Maya Angelou

*The New Jim Crow* 2010. Michelle Alexander

*Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome* 2017. Joy Degruy

*Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* 2014. Debby Irving (\*region copy)

*White Fragility* 2018. Robin DiAngelo (\* region copy)



## **Lent Madness Begins February 27!**

Want to be inspired by some saintly souls this Lent and have fun along the way? Join with thousands of Christians across denominations who have discovered the joyful online learning community that is Lent Madness.

With its unique blend of competition, education, and humor, Lent Madness allows participants to be inspired by the ways in which God has worked through the lives of saints over the generations. Based loosely on the NCAA basketball tournament of a similar name, this online devotion pits 32 saints against one another in a single-elimination bracket as voters choose their favorites throughout Lent.

Here's how to participate: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at [www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org) about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. Sixteen saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo.

The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch.

This year, Lent Madness features an intriguing slate of saints ancient and modern, Biblical and ecclesiastical. This year's saints include heavyweights such as Patrick, Harriet Tubman, Clare of Assisi, Hildegard of Bingen, Joseph, and Jude, along with many lesser known yet equally inspiring people of faith.

The full bracket is online at the Lent Madness website and, while not necessary to participate, you can order The Saintly Scorecard: The Definitive Guide to Lent Madness 2020 at [www.forwardmovement.org](http://www.forwardmovement.org). This companion guide includes biographies of all 32 saints, a full-color bracket, information about how to fully participate, and a series of Pocket Lent trading cards.

Lent Madness began in 2010 as the brainchild of Fr. Tim Schenck. He and Forward Movement executive director Fr. Scott Gunn comprise the self-appointed Supreme Executive Committee and are accompanied by eleven Celebrity Bloggers, clergy and lay people from across the country who shepherd several saints each throughout the season of Lent.

If you're looking for a Lenten discipline that is fun, educational, occasionally goofy, and always joyful, join the Lent Madness journey. Lent needn't be all doom and gloom. After all, what could be more joyful than a season specifically set aside to get closer to Jesus Christ?

[www.LentMadness.org](http://www.LentMadness.org)







### Eagle Scout Project

Trinity's Boy Scout Troop 36 Eagle Scout candidate, Ben Giles, spent several recent Sundays organizing and leading a project of replacing fencing at the Rappahannock County Park. This project is the culmination of work including earning 6 ranks, and a minimum 21 merit badges in scouting.

Great work, Ben!



### Founders of Cerulean

Performing live in the Parish Hall

Saturday, March 14, 2020

7pm

FREE admission. Open to all!



# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



## March Adult Forum Series: Ancient Practices for a Modern World

### March 1

Finding Our Way Again

Speaker: Miller Hunter

### March 8

The Way of Solitude: The Desert Fathers

Speaker: Carol Hunter

### March 15

The Way of St. Francis

Speaker: Noel Laing

### March 22

The Rule of St. Benedict

Speakers: Tim & Merrill Carrington

### March 29

The Celtic Way

Speaker: Miller Hunter