

Trinity Life

Autumn 2017 Volume 5, No. 1

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Looking Up and Thanking God

*Thou that hast given so
much to me, Give one thing
more, a grateful heart.*

*George Herbert,
poet and Anglican priest
(1593-1633)*

In just a few weeks it will be Thanksgiving. And I know that I ought to be like George Herbert, asking the God who has given me



*The Rev. William
Rich, Interim Rector*

so much to give me one more thing: a grateful heart.

But instead, I am lying in bed and sleepless. It is the end of a long day.

I don't have much energy for praying tonight, and I am not feeling spontaneously grateful. And so I look up toward heaven, hoping that my mind can focus long enough to offer something coherent to God before I fall asleep.

Sound familiar? Despite our best desire to be thankful, sometimes we feel depleted, and find it hard to give thanks to God.



Photo by Cynthia Staples

What then?

I was taught a practice for such times. I offer it to you. Perhaps you might want to try it. You may find it helpful, as I do.

I look up to the ceiling and bring to mind the verses that begin one of my favorite Psalms.

“I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.”

PSALM 121

And then I begin a review of my day. (The traditional word by which this spiritual practice is known among Christians is *examen*.) I try to make this review as concrete and down to earth as possible, and so I link my *examen* to parts of my body.

Continued on page 5

NEWS FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Transition Committees Begin Work

With the September announcement of the formation of the Parish Profile Committee and Search Committee, Trinity Church's search for a new rector is now underway.



Peter Lawrence
Senior Warden

The Parish Profile Committee has begun inviting input from parishioners through the recent forum held on October 29 and will continue to do so through surveys and "listening" sessions to ensure the profile reflects the hopes and dreams of the parish. The Committee intends to produce a candid and compelling profile to engage potential candidates by Ash Wednesday, February 14.

The Search Committee has begun preparatory work to support an efficient and effective process that will result in the calling of Trinity's next rector. Their outreach and recruiting will begin in earnest once the Parish Profile is complete. With God's help, it is hoped that Trinity will be ready to call its new rector in early 2019.

Construction Progresses

Signs of building projects being completed are starting to appear: the restoration of the two La Farge murals, the completion of extensive repairs to the interior staircase to the central tower, and removal of some of the external scaffolding. While we are grateful to see light at the end of this tunnel, some unforeseen developments have been revealed that will need further time and attention:

Some projects have been delayed due to the extraordinary number of days with rain or high winds.

The damage to the geo-exchange wells, which pro-

vide climate control to the building, is greater than suspected. The damage is largely the result of the corrosive effect of the Back Bay's water beneath us.

The extensive upgrades of the electrical system and fire detection systems that are so vital for our safety will cost more and take longer than originally anticipated.

The incremental costs associated with these and other issues have forced us to make some hard choices about what we can include in our scope of work, and what we may need to do another time. One of the things we've decided to wait on is the restoration of the statuary on the West Porch.

The Rectory At 20 Chestnut Street

When the Vestry learned that Sam Lloyd was diagnosed with cancer, we unanimously voted to extend the use of the rectory by the Lloyds until such time as Sam had recovered, and the Lloyds were in a position to move. With the date of their move imminent, we have discussed options to sell the property,



For questions or feedback for the Profile Committee, please email: ParishProfile@trinitychurchboston.org

2017

2018

J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Interior Scaffolding			COMPLETED!							
Two Nave Murals										
Protective Glazing for Stained Glass										
Roofing & Masonry										
West Porch Fencing										
West Porch Cleaning & Lighting										
Fire, Safety & Electrical										
2 Geo-Exchange Wells										



“Be generous.”

Live with an open hand.

Assume people are better than they may be, and give them the benefit of the doubt. Talk to strangers.

Show up to things.

Don't stay home all the time.

Listen sympathetically before forming an objection.

Don't worry about yourself so much.

If you feel you're not being “fed,” stop your carping, take off your bib, and put on an apron.

Don't expect a clear return on all of your emotional investments.

Don't take everything personally.

Reprinted in response to popular request. These lines, shared by Pete Lawrence at the Parish Update on October 1, originally appeared in the Rev. Patrick Ward's essay, “Famous Last Words,” in Trinity Community Update, October 22, 2015.

lease the property or do nothing until we call a new rector. After prayerful consideration over a number of months, and after sharing the options at the recent Parish Update, the Vestry has voted to sell the property.

We believe this decision is in the best interest of the parish because:

Clergy Housing Trends: Today's clergy prefer to buy their own home.

Carrying costs: Given current budget constraints, leaving the property empty would create a heavy financial burden.

Rent: Becoming a landlord will add administrative burden to the already stretched staff, and any income would be taxable.

Clear the slate: This provides an opportunity to help the parish and any new rector move on from a difficult issue.

Value accretion: It is certain that the property has increased in value since its purchase; its sale will allow us to repay debt to the endowment; and create a rector housing fund.

For these reasons, we believe it is in the parish's best interest to sell the property. It is anticipated that 20 Chestnut Street will go on the market soon.

Stay Calm and All Hands on Deck

It is both obvious and ironic that an organization searching for a new leader is both vulnerable and in need of support, but also risks not receiving that support because of its vulnerabilities. The bedrock

Parish Profile Committee

Keith Morgan and Kathy Sheehan, <i>Co-Chairs</i>	
Marty Cowden	Madeline McNeely
Jay Cushman	Jim Morgan
Sue Dickinson	Jesi Dunaway Nishibun
Susan Dukess	Carol Salter
Listo Fisher	Margot Thorp
Frank Furnari	Bill Walch
Mark King	

Search Committee

Mark Morrow and Jill Norton, <i>Co-Chairs</i>	
Kenzie Bok	Lonsdale Koester
Tom Clafin	Pam Lassiter
Colin Diver	Tim Martin
Vincent James	Chris Parris
Peter Howe	Ania Wieckowski
Ralph Hughes	

strength of Trinity Church is its parishioners, and each one of us is called to be our best selves during this time of transition.

So please: Show Up, Step Up And Look Up! 🍀

We're Up to Extraordinary Things...

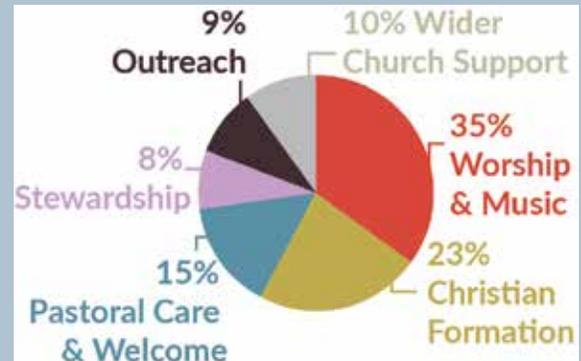
Libby Roberts and Chris Allen,
Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs

As we prepare for our 2018 annual stewardship campaign, much of the discussion among the Stewardship Committee has centered on identifying what makes Trinity extraordinary, and how it is we invite others into our life of worship and service at Trinity. When we ask Trinity members what makes our parish special, we hear hundreds of different answers! Whether it's through the richness of our worship, our iconic church building, our service to the people of Boston, the majesty of the choir's voice, the beautiful art that adorns our church, or even the cross over the altar, Trinity draws us in and inspires us to go out into the world and do the work God has called us to do.

God is at work. We see it, of course, among the scaffoldings that clad Trinity's exterior as the edifice we so dearly love is restored brick-by-brick. God is also at work within each of us, as we journey together with joyful hope toward a bright future for our church. Much of our future together depends on the work we are doing together this year—and it's up to each of us to show up, step up, and look up to secure the brightest possible future for Trinity Church.

We are a community of people seeking to be God's hands in the world. We are people who, by sharing our time, treasure, and talents, can do great and holy things, bringing the Good News of God's boundless

What Your Pledge Makes Possible Goals for 2018 Pledging



This year, our goal to raise \$3 million from 750 pledging households will allow us to maintain our ministries at the current level. This represents 5% increase over the 2017 budget, just enough to cover increasing costs for necessary items such as health care and property insurance.

love and mercy to the world, starting right here at Trinity Church.

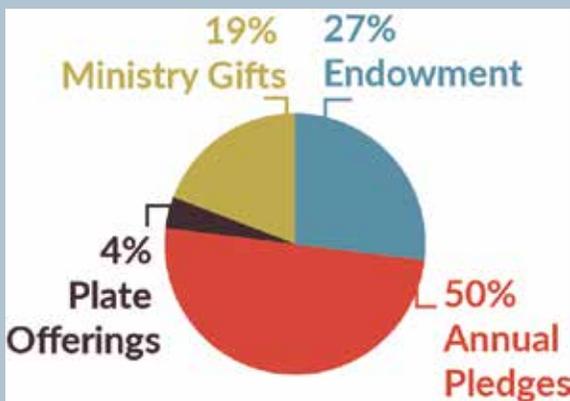
This is an extraordinary year at Trinity, and together, with God's help, we're doing extraordinary things. We hope you will reflect on the many ways Trinity is an extraordinary parish, and we hope you will invite and welcome others to be part of our story. Our stewardship of Trinity makes our ministries and mission possible, and our pledges allow Trinity's leadership to create a budget that supports our worship and music, our ministries, and the many ways we serve the community.

Please step up by making, renewing, or even increasing your financial pledge to support Trinity's life-giving ministries. Every pledge strengthens our parish and our ability to do God's work across Boston and the world.

If you have questions about what a pledge is, please ask one of us or contact Trinity's Stewardship Office. We are immensely grateful for all that you do to sustain our life together at Trinity, and we look forward to all God has in store for us during this extraordinary year.

Thank you for making your pledge by Sunday, November 19. 🌱

Your Pledge Matters



Pledges make up 50% of our total budget. The participation of each one of us largely determines what we can and cannot do each year.



Saint Andrew's Singer Series

The new "St. Andrew's Singer Series" (SASS), featuring Trinity's fabulous staff singers in recital in the intimacy of St. Andrew's Hall, debuted in October with a performance by Lawson Daves (bass/baritone), Fausto Miro (tenor), and Alexander Nishibun (tenor), with Stephanie Mao on piano. The next recitals will be January 7, February 25 and April 22, all at 2 p.m. Each 45-minute program offers a range of repertoire in this "chamber music" setting, followed by a reception to meet and chat with the artists. Admission is \$20. Those 18 and under are free.

THANKING GOD *continued from page 1*

Where did you draw my two feet today, dear Maker of my feet? I got to walk by a blazing maple tree, dappled with vibrant reds and greens. Thank you, God, for that burning bush, and for all the beauty of your wonderful Creation.

To what did you open my heart today, kind Jesus? My heart is breaking for two staff members who have lost family members in the last week or so. Thank you, compassionate Lord, for helping me to experience the truth of your Beatitude: "Blessed are those who

Out of tiredness
and distraction,
I have been
lifted up into
a grateful
heart. By
God's generous
goodness.

mourn, for they shall be comforted." Together, we felt your comfort as we shared tears and grateful memories of their loved ones.

What satisfying task did you give into my hands today, Holy Spirit? I had the chance to write a note of thanks to someone who surprised the parish with a generous gift. Thank you

for her kind desire to honor her deceased friend, and thank you for helping me craft words to express Trinity's gratitude for her gracious donation.

The grandeur of a tree blazing with color. The lives of two dearly beloved people. The surprise of a generous gift. By the end of my *examen*, God has graced my day-end-memory with several things for which I feel genuinely grateful. And so, George Herbert's prayer has come true for me. Out of tiredness and distraction, I have been lifted up into a grateful heart. By God's generous goodness.

The fourth week of November is fast approaching and with it both Pledge Sunday and Thanksgiving Day. As those days draw near, I invite you to take up your own kind of *examen*. See what gratitude God causes to rise in your heart. Who knows, but out of your grateful heart might come a generous pledge to support the ministries of God through Trinity, and a Thanksgiving celebration graced with a deeper gratitude than you had imagined possible.

With gratitude for you, and our life together in this parish,

Bill



Left, following a weekend of violence in Charlottesville, VA, Trinity parishioners gathered in the square after the 10 a.m. service, to “Sing a New Song” to share hope with passers-by.

Right, hundreds joined in the fun for the Sole Train 5K at Jamaica Pond on Sat., October 22.

Stepping Outside

Members of Team Trinity of the Rodman Ride, including Trinity Boston Foundation Executive Director Louise Packard (far left), Ralph Cole, Annie Packard, and Dewey Nichols (standing, right) took a moment from pedaling to pose.



Above, dozens of people brought to the annual Blessing of the Animals.

Right, parishioners joined Ken... Firm a Foundation Campaign... mittee, and architectural histo... scaffolding to learn more about



*...t their animal friends to the
...ls.*

*...ith Morgan, co-chair of the How
...n, member of the Building Com-
...rian for a tour on the exterior
...t the restoration and repair projects.*



Science & Conscience reveal how Persistent Racism Harms Health

Nancy Krieger's awareness about racial inequities developed quite early. "As the child of two doctors, I found it curious that the ever-present bandages advertised as 'flesh-toned' didn't match the skin color of many people," Dr. Krieger shared during a recent interview. Her insatiable curiosity led her to pursue a Ph.D. in Social Epidemiology, with a thesis that was a groundbreaking measurement and analysis of how persistent racism is a cause of health disparities in the African American community. It set the basis for her lifelong work on how social inequality in its many forms produces health inequities—meaning unfair, unnecessary and preventable differences in health status across social groups – and why it is we must learn from history and strive for health equity.

"People literally embody, biologically, their societal and ecological context, for good and for bad," she explained. "It's dangerous and negligent to discount or dismiss how risk of disease is socially structured." She found that for generations, the medical and public health establishment by and large has ignored or downplayed the impact of racism and economic deprivation on people's health, within and across generations, and instead has wrongly attributed health disparities to heredity or lifestyle. Over 20 years of study have been instrumental in documenting the health impacts of systemic racism and



Dr. Nancy Krieger presented at the Anne Berry Bonnyman Symposium.

... I found it curious that the ever-present bandages advertised as 'flesh-toned' didn't match the skin color of many people.

economic inequality on those who disproportionately bear the burden of cancer, cardiovascular disease, poor birth outcomes, early death, and mortality due to gun violence.

When asked about the breadth of her research, Dr. Krieger noted, "Science as a tool is powerful, and scientific literacy is an essential part of building a healthier and fairer society. But we need to keep our consciences and curiosity honed too."

Dr. Krieger's lectures, well attended by both scholars and activists, are punctuated by a sense of history and purpose, backed up by statistical rigor and compelling research. Her classroom is full of her humor, insight, and energy as well, with many illustrations taken from other disciplines and the arts. It is a certainty that her presence at this year's Symposium will provide a thoughtful perspective on today's challenging social inequalities in health — and what we can do to advance health equity. 🌱

Scientific racism, embodiment & fighting for health equity: Black Health Matters

Dr. Nancy Krieger, Professor of Social Epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, will present during the Forum on Sunday, November 12 at 10:15 a.m., as part of the third annual Anne Berry Bonnyman Symposium themed "Is Inequality Bad for Our Health?" One of the most highly cited researchers in her field, Dr. Krieger has been a faculty member at Harvard for 22 years and a powerful, persuasive advocate for social justice and public health.

FAITH C T WITNESS O N

12 Lives Forum Series



*The Rev. Patrick C.
Ward, Associate Rector*

When I first returned to church at the age of 30, I went through an intense period of reading everything I could about my rediscovered faith. It was as if I were making up for lost time and neglected learning. So in I plunged: Elaine Pagels, Marcus Borg, James Carroll, Huston Smith. So many books, I thought. So little time. After 20 years or so, what I remember best are the autobiographies I read: Thomas Merton's *The Seven Storey Mountain*, Helen Prejean's *Dead Man Walking*, Augustine's *Confessions*, Kathleen Norris' *The Cloister Walk*.

These were lives that had been interrupted by faith and made new — in some cases against the will and best intentions of the person telling the story. There are two kinds of stories, begins Prejean: the extraordinary person caught in ordinary circumstances and the ordinary person caught up in extraordinary circumstances. This humble and sharp-witted nun parked herself in the second category and her story in particular hinted to me how my own life might be transformed — opened, really — by community, practice, faith, and sacrament.

12 Lives Forums Schedule

- Nov. 19** Martin Luther, by Bishop Guy Erwin of Lutheran Diocese of Southern California, in celebration of the 500th anniversary of Reformation
- Dec. 17** Dorothy Day, by Claire and Scott Schaeffer-Duffy of the Worcester Catholic Worker House
- Jan. 29** Teresa of Avila, by Professor Stephanie Paulsell
- Feb. 11** Dante, by Professor Peter Hawkins
- Feb. 25** Howard Thurman, by filmmaker Arleigh Prelow
- March 3** Kahlil Gibran, by Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler
- April 8** Mary Magdalene, by Professor Karen King
- April 29** Virgin Mary & Her Minstrels, by Boston Camerata Director Anne Azema
- May 6** Martin Buber, by Rabbi Ronne Friedman
- May 20** Brother Roger of Taizé by the Rev. Rita Powell
- June 17** Theodore Parker Ferris, by Rev. Thomas Brown

The witness of others is really the best guide we have to what the Anglican divine Jeremy Taylor called “holy living and holy dying.” This is why God gives us to each other in the context of church — especially small groups — and it’s why we recall all saints and all souls each November as another year begins to turn. On 12 Sundays at Trinity this year, and with the guidance of guest speakers, we are going to take a close look at 12 lives in particular: men and women from different eras in the life of the wider church, and beyond. How did they live into their faith in their own time, culture, and community?

We invite you to think of these people of the past as 12 lives waiting to be clasped, and the guest presenters as 12 other lives made new, in some way, by the witnesses they have discovered and will present to you. Please mark your calendar for Sundays at 10:15 a.m and plan to be with us! 🍀



HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

from the Welcome Center

Looking for a special holiday gift or card? Visit the shop located in Trinity's Welcome Center! There you will find a wide range of holiday stationery and unique merchandise produced by local artists. Many of the items are exclusively available at Trinity featuring motifs and patterns found throughout the church. Here are our perennial best-sellers:

For a Trinity Inspired-Tree: If you're looking for **ornaments**, you won't find a better selection of Trinity-inspired collectible ornaments in brass, glass and ceramic.



For Hostess Gifts: Coasters are a great choice. Know someone who **loves books**? We have bookmarks. Seeking to **inspire**? Peruse the various **collected sermons** of Trinity's clergy and consider the CDs capturing the beautiful **voices of Trinity's choirs**.

Please know that every purchase supports our hospitality efforts and church ministries.
Thank you for shopping with us!

Join us for Advent

Family Advent Morning

Sun., 12/3, 10:15 a.m., Forum

Join us for a special time of crafts, activities, and treats to help us get ready for the real meaning of Christmas: the coming of Jesus! **Contact** Cathy Portlock Pacitto, cportlock@trinitychurchboston.org, 617-536-0944

Christmas Flowers

Send in your names by Fri., 12/9

Remember a loved one, celebrate a milestone, or give thanks with a donation to the Christmas Flower Fund. Names must be received by Fri., 12/9, to be in Christmas service leaflets. To donate, go to bit.ly/TrinityAltarFlowers or contact Derby Swanson, 617-536-0944 x362

Messiah: G.F. Handel & Cantata 140: J.S. Bach

12/10, 3 p.m., Church

Don't miss this annual tradition and Boston's only performance of Handel's masterpiece in a sacred setting. Tickets (\$10-\$60) at trinitychurchconcerts.org/tickets.

Trinity's Alternative Giving Marketplace

Sun., 12/10, Following morning services, Undercroft Shop for Christmas gifts and know your purchase benefits populations around the world. Featuring The Heifer Project, Friends of Meali, and other programs that help alleviate hunger, poverty and environmental degradation around the world. Find the perfect gift to honor that person on your Christmas list "who has everything"!

Candlelight Carols

Sat., 12/16, 4 p.m. & 7 p.m. (free)

Sun., 12/17, 4 p.m. (ticketed benefit)

Candlelight Carols is one of Boston's most beloved events of the season. Tickets for the benefit on Sun., Dec. 17, 4 pm are \$45, \$80, & \$120. Tickets are on sale now online at trinitychurchboston.org.

Advent IV Holy Eucharist

Sun., 12/24, 10 a.m., Church





Trinity Church

in the City of Boston

Copley Square
206 Clarendon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116-3722

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Pageant

Sun., 12/24, 4:30 p.m., Church

All children attending the service are invited to be a star, an angel, a sheep or a shepherd and join us at the manger! **Contact** Cathy Portlock Pacitto, cportlock@trinitychurchboston.org, 617-536-0944

Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist

Sun., 12/24, 7:30 p.m. & 11 p.m., Church
Early arrival recommended.

Christmas Day Festival Eucharist

Mon., 12/25, 10 a.m., Church

New Year's Eve Eucharist

Sun., 12/31, 10 a.m., Church