

The Shining

“Every year I’m struck by the thousands who come to our Candlelight Carols and Christmas services. They fill every corner of our sanctuary, and we are often forced to turn disappointed crowds away. It’s clear that many who come are not connected to any church at all. They rarely sing and often seem confused at the altar about what to do.



*The Rev. Samuel T. Lloyd III,
Rector*

I know they come for the glorious music, the beauty and pageantry, but for the life of me they often seem to be looking for something more—some peace, maybe, some sense of direction, some sign that the cosmos cares. In those moving services, a light from another realm shines through, not just for visitors but for us Trinity regulars too.

Now we are plunged into the season of Epiphany, which brings us accounts of the launching of Jesus’ early ministry. The word “epiphany” means “the shining out,” and these accounts show God’s energy and love shining through his words and actions. We are what someone called “border walkers,” living on the boundary between the physical and spiritual worlds. And these epiphany accounts show how Jesus pours the light and love of the spiritual realm into his acts of healing and teaching.

In every act of forgiveness, every effort to care for the struggling, every gesture of compassion for the least, every brave word uttered in the face of injustice, God’s light is shining through us.

Epiphany opens with Jesus’ baptism as he plunges into the Jordan River where he experiences God’s shining love as if it were a voice coming down from heaven. Then we see him calling his disciples to put down their nets and follow him, proclaiming a new kingdom of love and peace. And so a movement of hope and healing has begun. Jesus’



On the first Sunday of Epiphany, the season when we celebrate the light of Christ entering into the darkness of our lives, Trinity’s cross shone brightly during the service of Choral Compline.

ministry of bringing “good news to the poor, relief to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind” is underway.

The light shined into the world in the birth of Christ, and that light has shined through the life of Christ ever since. That same light shines on and through all of us who follow Christ in the church. In every act of forgiveness, every

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Building the Kingdom of God Together

As we look forward to 2017 and all that is in store for us, I look back at 2016 with enormous gratitude. Since my arrival as Director of Stewardship at Trinity last March, I have been overwhelmed by the remarkable generosity of the Trinity community, especially in response



Adam Dawkins
Director of
Stewardship

to our *How Firm a Foundation* campaign. Together, we have achieved three quarters of our \$25 million campaign goal, which will enable us to redouble our efforts to build the kingdom of God. Hallelujah!

The congregation's prayerful generosity, which will result in expanded outreach ministries, enhanced community worship, and a renewed historic church building, is a testament to our commitment to following Jesus' call to "come, follow me."

"We have the chance to shape Trinity for ourselves today and pass on the gift of a healthy community to all who come after us."

*Listo Fisher,
Parishioner Since 1973*

There is much to celebrate together. Some highlights include:

- Parishioners are talking with each other about stewardship, getting to know each other better, and are inviting one another to participate in *How Firm a Foundation*.
- We will build and dedicate a new chapel in Trinity's undercroft in early 2017 as a result of your generosity thus far.
- Trinity's outreach ministries are engaging more volunteers

and expanding life-giving and life-saving programs in exciting ways.

- Work will begin in spring 2017 to renew and restore our historic and beloved church building, ensuring its safety and our presence for generations to come.

We still have a lot of work ahead to achieve together. A team of parishioners is working tirelessly to be sure that each one of you has a chance to participate in this great opportunity to build Trinity's future and sustain the day-to-day programs and ministries of the church. It takes more than 800 households to ensure that Trinity and its work continue to flourish—and each and every gift gets us closer to that goal. (If you'd like to join that team of visitors, please let me know!)

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for warmly welcoming me into the Trinity community, and I thank you for your kind stewardship of our parish. I look forward to getting to know more of you better, and can't wait to see what we will accomplish together in the New Year. **TL**



Parishioners gathered at the Rectory to celebrate Phillips Brooks' 181st birthday at a festive reception on Tues., Dec. 13.

If you haven't made your annual pledge yet, please consider making your annual pledge today. Even though you may not have had a Campaign conversation, we hope you will go ahead and make your annual pledge. Pledge cards are in the pews, and online at trinitychurchboston.org/give.

If you'd like to learn more, contact Adam Dawkins, 617-536-0944, adawkins@trinitychurchboston.org

New Directory and Website Debut

As this Christmastide issue featuring stories about how the people and ministries of Trinity Church sharing their gifts makes its way to you, we are happy to offer some additional



Pat Hurley,
Director of
Communications

gifts that we hope will help make your new year bright:

The long-awaited **Parish Directory** is heading to the printer, and will become available to anyone who responded to the

parish Census during the month of January. To help offset the cost of this 60 page book, we will be asking for a contribution of \$5 per volume. Thank you to the efforts of volunteers like Liz Rosselot

Thank you to the efforts of volunteers like Liz Rosselot who made (the Parish Directory) possible!

who made this book possible! If you responded to the Census, and would like a free copy of the Directory as a PDF, please contact

me directly: phurley@trinitychurchboston.org, 617-536-0944 x389.

We are thrilled to introduce the **new, improved trinitychurchboston.org** website! Developed with people who are new to Trinity in mind, the new website makes it easier to find what you're looking for, features more views of our parish as we truly are, and is built with technology that can keep up with Trinity's ever-expanding needs for communication. This new platform also provides more options for engaging with ministries, efficient pledging and donations, event registrations, and ways to interact with Trinity, its leaders and staff.



Weekly Services

SUNDAYS Holy Eucharist 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., & 6 p.m.	SUNDAYS Morning Prayer 11:15 a.m. Eucharist First Sundays	SUNDAYS Sacred Silence 7 p.m. Choral Compline 8 p.m.	WEDNESDAYS Choral Evensong 5:45 p.m.	THURSDAYS Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing 12:10 p.m.
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A new, mobile-ready website welcomes newcomers as well as parishioners by making it easier to learn about Trinity, our faith, our ministries, and opportunities to engage in our life.

The new site also features downloadable audio and video, so that you can **listen-on-the-go to sermons or the new Compline and Good News in the City podcasts, and watch that week's Forum from wherever you are.**

Sadly, we have to say **goodbye to the Trinity Table**, our private parish online network. The software provider for this tool has decided to discontinue it on December 31, 2016. We hope to be able to replace the Table in 2017 with a network that is more reliable and easy to use.

Thanks to your support and participation which have made these initiatives are possible! We're constantly searching for new, more effective ways to share information and stories about Trinity with the parish and the wider community. We

are hopeful that with the new site, we are raising the bar. We look forward to hearing your feedback. **TL**



PARISH NEWS

**Trinity on-the-go! Podcasts
Now Available**

DECEMBER 20, 2016

The new site is built to be viewed on mobile devices, as well as computers.

Pastoral Care: The Gift of Presence



Pastoring isn't just for the clergy—and listening to and being there for each other is what creates a caring community.

"I believe," writes Donald Capps, a well-known professor of pastoral theology, "that pastoral conversations should be inherently encouraging." I have always believed this to be true, and yet, it seems, there are so many times when "encouragement"—as the wider culture usually understands this idea—can seem jarringly insensitive. A friend whose husband quickly succumbed this fall to a rare and virulent gastric cancer, for example, tells me that talk of "beating this thing" from well-meaning family and friends only drove her deeper into isolated grief. The writer Norman Maclean, in his novella *A River Runs Through It*, summarizes for many of us "the caring quandary": "We are willing to help, Lord, but what, if anything, is needed?...



*The Rev.
Patrick C. Ward,
Associate Rector
for Pastoral
Ministries &
Welcome*

Either we don't know what part of ourselves to give or, more often than not, the part we have to give is not wanted."

Another way of framing Maclean's questions is simply "How are we to be with those who are suffering?" Most of the "pastoral care" that occurs in and around Trinity is not offered by clergy, but by all of us: through ministries

Most of the "pastoral care" that occurs in and around Trinity is not offered by clergy, but by all of us...

Shaping the Pastoral Conversation

There are some skills and "best practices" that can shape a helpful and encouraging conversation with a person who is suffering. Here is a bit of what I have learned from others:

1 The person talking is usually the person receiving the care. **Pastoring is largely the art of listening**, versus "fixing" or giving advice. Ralph Waldo Emerson once observed, "It is a luxury, to be understood." Do not worry about what you will say to a troubled person. Listen, extend the "luxury" of your understanding, and trust that the words of response or counsel will be given to you.

2 There are helpful responses—and other kinds. **Caring questions are at the heart of pastoring**. They signal that the speaker is being heard and that you are interested in hearing more. These should be free of judgment and invite more than a simple "yes" or "no." Good example: "How have you been since the funeral?" Bad example: "John's death must have been terrible for you."

3 **Your presence embodies hope**. Don't underestimate its healing power. Trouble, infirmity and grief are powerful—and sometimes lethal—isolators. The fact that you have shown up and are present—even for an hour—in the life of another tells her that she has not been forgotten—by you, or by God.

such as Eucharistic visiting and cancer support groups, but also peer-to-peer in porch or coffee hour conversations, over lunch, in small groups. A healthy church does not understand and accept "pastoring" as the exclusive domain of the ordained. A healthy church instead lives the good news as a caring community.

Do you understand yourself as a "pastoring presence?" Are you curious about a role in any of Trinity's pastoral ministries? Please then be in touch. I'd like to hear more! Contact me at pward@trinitychurchboston.org. **TL**

Ministry of Healing with the Hallelu Singers

Below, members of the Hallelu Singers helped lead worship at Sherrill House in Summer 2016.

"This is my story, this is my song, praising the Savior, all the day long..."

They sing of gospel trains coming, sinners coming home, and Jesus softly and tenderly calling. They are Trinity Church Boston's Hallelu Singers, grounded in a repertoire of gospel music and spirituals evoking struggle and salvation—two themes that appeared to be especially meaningful for 12 elderly residents of Sherrill House on a mid-summer morning. The resident worshipers, most of whom made their way into the Sherrill House Chapel for Holy Eucharist either leaning on walkers or sitting in wheelchairs, sing along with the hymns. Some shut their eyes. Some sway in their seats. It is clear they are transported by the music, which is, after all, the whole point.

In addition to the group's recent commitment to sing at Sherrill House once a month, Hallelu Singers often perform the prelude at Trinity's 6 p.m. Sunday service.

"So many of our residents have trouble engaging in conversation with others," says Sarah Borgeson, Sherrill House Community Outreach Coordinator. "Music has a way of getting in under the skin and engaging the soul in a way conversation doesn't. It helps people find expression and connection, engage in the world, and tell their stories. The Hallelu Singers play a big part in that here."

Since its inception in 2010, Trinity Church's small Gospel singing group has sung eight or nine times a year at various church functions and



worship services. In addition to the group's recent commitment to sing at Sherrill House once a month, Hallelu Singers often perform the prelude at Trinity's 6 p.m. Sunday service. And for the second year in a row, they were featured singers at the Bonnyman Symposium, "Overcoming Racism and Income Inequity in Our Schools" in October. It is clearly a labor of love for all involved, especially the core group of singers—Carol Akerson, Shirley Fountain, and David Traugot—who divide the work of choosing the music, arranging song adaptations, and booking performances according to their talents.

All three of them speak of their singing as "ministry" and their music as an agent of healing. Carol, who founded the group six years ago because of gospel music's unique capacity to sustain her during a time of grief and loss, is hoping to organize a healing workshop drawing from lyrics of spirituals and gospel melodies. For David, watching Sherrill

"Music has a way of getting in under the skin and engaging the soul in a way conversation doesn't."

*Sarah Borgeson,
Sherrill House Community
Outreach Coordinator*

House residents come alive during the group's performances, the definition of ministry has taken on new meaning. Shirley is, perhaps, the most eloquent about the musical genre's capacity to liberate and expand lives.

"Being invited to sing at the Symposium is really important," she says. "It's hard to sit with all the turmoil racism causes. It's hard to read the paper and listen to news. Gospel music helps us find a way into the difficult and graphic topic of race, and reflect on it together. It opens up doors and makes space for important conversations." **TL**

by Barb Bodengraven, contributor



Above, the dynamic and provocative Nadia Bolz-Weber, pastor of the Lutheran Church of All Saints and All Sinners in Denver, and best-selling author, spoke to a crowd of nearly 400 people on a Friday night in October.

Right, the visit of farm animals from Heifer International contributed to high spirits during our annual Alternative Giving Fair. While enjoying crafts and treats by church school 4th and 5th graders, attendees generously supported a wide range of ministries and worthy causes.

Below, The Rev. William Barnwell, former Assistant Rector at Trinity, shared his experiences pastoring to prisoners at a November Forum.

Below right, after a tumultuous, divisive election season, many were feeling a need to be heard. As a move towards healing and hope, Trinity turned over the regular Forum lecture time so that the more than 150 attendees could participate in talking circles, sharing thoughts, feelings, and next steps that faithful people might take to promote understanding and reconciliation as the nation moves forward.





Above, Fausto Miro was among three other soloists when the Trinity Choirs performed Handel's Messiah to a packed house.

We Gather *together*

Below, Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Choir members spent time before a recent service assembling the Pledge Sunday puzzle of Trinity Church. Each piece is important to making the church complete.



"Give them...the gift of joy and wonder in all your works."

*Book of Common Prayer
p308, Baptismal prayer*

Wondering is one of the centerpieces of a Godly Play lesson. During the children's homilies, I encourage the children to "wonder" about what Jesus might be wanting to teach us in the particular Bible lesson we are learning. This kind of learning is far different than basic transference of knowledge. Wondering allows children to draw parallels between themselves and the Biblical characters. It can bring these "long-ago" stories to life, helping children to connect with the people and places of the Biblical narrative in a far more meaningful way. Wondering provides a pathway for children to enter more deeply into the great mysteries of God; it is, for them, a type of theological reflection in which they begin to verbalize who God is and who they are in God. For those of us blessed enough



*Cathy Portlock
Pacitto,
Director of
Children's
Ministries*

to minister to and with children, being part of the wondering process is a gift.

Wondering normally begins with questions from the adult leader, "I wonder which part of the story you like best? I wonder which part of the story is the most important? I wonder which part of the story you like the least? I wonder if there is a part of the story we could leave out and still have all of the story? I wonder which part of the story is most about you?"

There was one child who, in a lesson on Baptism (which refers to Baptism as the 'day

Wondering about GOD

things at different times." I have seen time and time again that children take this business of wondering very seriously. They have a deep desire to not only know *about* God, but to *know God*, and wondering is one of the ways they do this.

I believe there is a lot that we more jaded adults can learn from the children about being open to wonder. Their innate openness to mystery, to adventure, to miracles is what Jesus talks about when he encourages us to have the faith of a child, and says, in reference to children, "the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Childlike faith does not mean there are no questions. It does not mean we check our brains at the door when we come into church. It does mean that we are open to possibility, to the miraculous, to wonder.

you get your light'), wondered if our light ever goes out, even when we die. During a discussion of the Trinity, another child wondered if "God gave us the three parts because He knew we would need different



Ever wonder where the children go during the morning sermon? The Children's Homily makes the lessons of the Bible come to life by inviting the children to share their wonderings.

So, I invite you to wonder...to wonder about who Trinity is now and about who God is calling Trinity to be in the years ahead. I wonder which part of Trinity's story you like best? I wonder which part is the most important? I wonder which part of the story is most about you?

Ever wonder where the children go during the morning sermon? The Children's Homily makes the lessons of the Bible come to life by inviting the children to share their wonderings. **TL**

Shining Christ's Light through Social Media

One of our jobs as baptized Christians is to shine Christ's light into the world through speaking our faith aloud. This is valuable for the ways it can carry God's love to others, but perhaps even more valuable for what it does for us: through articulating our beliefs, our values, and the ways



Mary Davenport Davis
Minister for Youth and Social Media

we see God's presence in the world, we ourselves become strengthened to live more fully as Christians. Where our faith is silent, it withers. Where it finds voice, it grows.

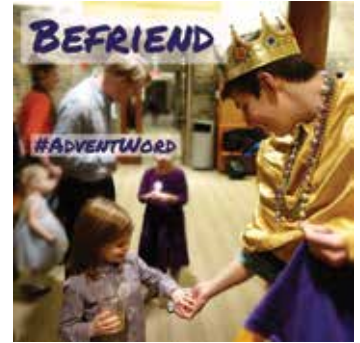
It might seem odd for a church like Trinity to invest time and energy into social media. After all, we affirm daily, through sermons and worship and outreach and small groups, that presence is what we need—from God and from one another. And for many, social media apps such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram represent the opposite of presence. But I see things a bit differently. One of the good things about the social media is that it provides a virtual public square in which millions can mingle, everyone can have a voice, and genuine conversation can flourish.

And so at Trinity we take part in an ongoing exploration of the possibilities and limitations of these new tools to share our faith, give us a voice, and engage with parishioners as well as friends from afar who may never cross our threshold. We don't uncritically adopt everything that comes our way—I could talk your ear off about the reasons the church has an official Facebook and Instagram presence, but not Twitter or Snapchat. But we look constantly for ways in which our tender and steadfast God can become part of the public conversation.

It doesn't replace the rich sensory experience of being there in person; but it allows anyone, wherever they are in the world, to hear the God who comes to us through song and silence.

Every day, year-round, dozens of visitors to Boston take pictures of Trinity's striking façade to post on Instagram. Trinity can say hello and let them know that Christianity is more than a pretty face. Fully one-third of American workers take a mental break from work by browsing Facebook.* We can tempt people to spend time in

meditation, prayer, or reflection by sharing our blog posts, podcasts and sermon videos, along with other resources like SSJE's PrayersOf.org through our Facebook page. We now share our weekly Choral Compline service on iTunes ("Compline at Trinity Church Boston"). It doesn't replace



Once again this year, Trinity and thousands of Christians from around the world participated in #AdventWord, a global virtual Advent calendar from the Anglican Communion and SSJE. To see the global calendar, visit adventword.org.

the rich sensory experience of being there in person; but it allows anyone, wherever they are in the world, to hear the God who comes to us through song and silence.

As a disciple yourself, how might you use these new tools to participate in what Bishop Curry calls "Jesus's movement in this world?" One way that may seem counterintuitive is to work toward being intentional about how you use your devices. Like ice cream, social media is excellent sometimes but sickening in unlimited quantities, and a poor substitute for the nourishment of unmediated reality. Secondly, you can practice being a Christian in public. Risk the discomfort of being a Christian to a world that has been lied to about what that means. This can be simple: Share a sermon that you loved. Check in to church. Notice—and "signal-boost" (share)—the online spiritual resources that speak to you. Allow your online life to express the deepest truths you know. I hope that, like me, that as you scatter virtual seeds of faith with others, you will find these truths opening up more and more within you. **TL**

*2014 Pew Research Survey

Trinity Teenagers to be Pilgrims of Trust

"How can I be a sign of the Gospel in the world?"

These words have been ringing persistently in my ears in recent days. It has been a hard autumn; I have encountered tragedies, both personal and national, that seem likely to shape my life for years to come. In our prayers many of us have asked, "What do we do now?" And for me, the answer has come back in the form of another question: 'How can I be a sign of the Gospel in the world?'"

Brother Roger, the founder of the religious community in Taizé, France



Mary Davenport Davis
Minister for Youth and Social Media

During World War II, Roger and his sister Genevieve settled in a small town near occupied France and began the simple task of offering hospitality to all those in need of shelter; Germans, French, and Jews alike. From this quixotic beginning, the Taizé community grew into an ecumenical religious movement that seeks to bring reconciliation to all the world through hospitality, solidarity, and shared prayer. Many of us are familiar with the simple, direct wisdom in the prayers and songs published by the community. *Start with your desire for love, they tell me. It is not so complicated. If you look for Jesus, he will find you.*

"How can I be a sign of the Gospel in the world?" Last year, a group formed to explore, in essence, how Trinity might live into this question. The task of the Global Engagement Task Force—mandated by the results of the 2014-15 Mission Task Force Report—was both

Pilgrimage ... asks us to discard our old goals and open ourselves to God's goals for us...



The Trinity Choir made a pilgrimage to England last summer to serve as Choir in Residence at Westminster Abbey and Winchester Cathedral. Leading worship daily in these ancient touchstones of the Anglican Church, teens and adults alike learned to live together, play together, and see and embody Christ in one another. The upcoming pilgrimage to St. Louis provides another opportunity for this deep exploration of faith in community. Photo by Karin Denison

to develop a set of key principles for how Trinity ought to carry out God's mission throughout the world, as well as to recommend some specific projects. One of the activities that was recommended for the short term was to continue carrying out pilgrimages with both adults and teens.

Pilgrimage is a funny thing; it's hard to justify using the terms of commerce and cost-benefit analysis by which we typically run our lives. It involves throwing ourselves at the mercy of the world and seeking hospitality from others, instead of offering it out of our own strength. It asks us to discard our old goals and open ourselves to God's goals for us, which may be quite different than we expected. It asks us to go places where we will be strangers, in order to learn what we cannot know except as a stranger. It asks us to walk

as Jesus walks, in perfect trust.

Over Memorial Day Weekend (May 26-29, 2017), a group of teenagers, adult parishioners, and staff from Trinity will join thousands of pilgrims to St. Louis, Missouri for an ecumenical "Pilgrimage of Trust" organized by the brothers of

Taizé. The brothers were invited by the city's Archbishop Richard Carlson to bring churches, communities and households from all over the country together in prayer and Bible

study as a way of seeking healing from the deep and bitter wounds of racial injustice. We don't know exactly what it will be like; we only know that we are called to go. And we know that we will carry with us all those who stay in Boston. We seek to be your signs of the Gospel in the world. And we know we will return home with treasures none but God can yet imagine. **TL**





Colin Lynch directs the men of the choir in singing Ave Maria at one of the annual Candlelight Carols services in December, 2016.

Shining *Continued from page 1*

effort to care for the struggling, every gesture of compassion for the least, every brave word uttered in the face of injustice, God's light is shining through us.

I was struck as I turned the pages of this *TrinityLife* to see the signs of Christ's love shining through the daily events of our parish life. A few pieces show how Christ's light can flow through our pastoral conversations with each other and such simple acts as visiting and singing to the elderly. There are photos of speakers who have challenged us, and a grace-filled invitation to see Christ shining through the simplicity and joy of our children's ministries.

I always hope and pray that some of our Christmas visitors will come back and discover for themselves "the light that enlightens the darkness" right here at Trinity.

I always hope and pray that some of our Christmas visitors will come back and discover for themselves "the light that enlightens the darkness" right here at Trinity. I pray for them, as I pray for our community, that the shining that started in a stable, and grew broad and deep in Jesus' ministry, will continue to shine through Trinity's life and send us out as agents of his light.

Upcoming Events

The Play of Daniel — *Launch of National Tour!*
Presented by the Boston Camerata, featuring Trinity Choristers
January 29, 3 p.m., Church • Tickets: bostoncamerata.com

Parish Update
Sun., Feb. 5, 10:15 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.

Bible Studies Resume
Week of Feb. 11

Annual Meeting
Sun., March 19, 10:15 a.m., Church

Ash Wednesday
Weds., March 1
Services at 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 7 p.m.

Stay Up-to-Date on Trinity Happenings

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Trinity Church

in the City of Boston

Copley Square

206 Clarendon Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02116-3722

Celebrate
140 Years!
on Copley Square

Join us
on Sunday, February 12

4 p.m.

Service to consecrate
the new Chapel at Trinity Church,
with the Rt. Rev. Alan Gates, Bishop,
Diocese of Massachusetts

5:30 – 10 p.m.

All-parish party • Free and open to all!

