

And the Spirit Will Lead You...

As I write, the mountains and hills of increasingly gray snow continue to line the streets around Copley Square. Pedestrians bustle along shrouded in their jackets and layers of wool. Getting to church on Sundays has often proved daunting, but despite winter's fierce moods, life at Trinity has been moving forward with remarkable energy.



The Rev. Samuel T. Lloyd III
Rector

We at Trinity are calling this a "Year of Discovery," a phrase that resonates in more ways than one. We recently "discovered" the latent power of hosting a public conversation as we gathered for the first Anne Berry Bonnyman Symposium, addressing the challenges of racism in our country.

What are we learning about living in community with each other? Who does God want us to become?

And we gathered for an all-parish dinner and cabaret that used nearly every space in the church and gave us a taste of Mardi Gras fun as Lent loomed on the horizon—another discovery.

And then there have been our three major discernment groups that have been deeply engaged in exploring who and what we are being called to become in the coming years. The research, reflection, and wide-



Winter roared through New England in late January and February of 2015. Here, Trinity rises from the snowbanks from the intersection of Clarendon Street and St. James Avenue. Photo by parishioner Monte Agro.

ranging conversations of the Mission Task Force, the Building Committee, and the Liturgy Study Group will be helping to chart the future into which God is calling us.

Several people have asked me in recent months what exactly these planning groups are trying to achieve, and I've replied that these are not so much "planning" groups as "discernment" groups. Rather than rushing to achieve something in particular, these groups are looking deeply into key parts of our life—our patterns of worship, the luminous

building we call our spiritual home, and the ways in which we are being called to reach out and serve our community outside our doors.

The groups haven't been charged primarily to develop plans for next steps, but to discern where God's Spirit is leading our congregation in those areas, and how God is calling us to serve and use the resources with which Trinity is so blessed.

The root meaning of the word "discern" is "to separate." To discern is to listen

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There For One Another

Community. It's a word that gets used so often for so many things, it can start to lose any real sense of meaning. Is it a place? A group? A feeling? As Director of Communications, I spend a lot of time thinking about community here at Trinity: How can we nurture an experience of "common unity," support the sense of "communion," and ultimately grow and share that?



Pat Hurley
Director of
Communications

Reflecting on the past year, I've noticed that this feeling seems to become heightened at moments of celebration (baptisms; last month's Patriot's parade), or crisis ("Boston Strong"). But I was reminded of the true essence of Christian community when my family experienced its own crisis, and my husband, Tom Hulme, suddenly was taken ill and landed in the hospital for a week.

For a week, it felt as if we were living on a separate planet called MGH—distant, foreign, and where time had no meaning. Our focus narrowed to that dimly lit room. While our beloved families in other states offered prayers and help, it was primarily our Trinity friends

who tethered us to this world, who made sure we were safe and supported and comforted on this journey.

Our Trinity friends sprang into action. One took on the role as captain, and organized our mission control team. While a few shoveled our roof in anticipation of the coming blizzard, another took me grocery shopping in hopeful anticipation of Tom's homecoming; when one came to take me out for my first non-cafeteria meal, another sat by Tom's side while I was gone. Clergy came to visit, to share communion, blessings, and a few laughs when it was clear we were "out of the woods."

I felt so supported by my colleagues, who shielded me from the stress of being part of their heroic efforts to support the greater Trinity community by pre-empting the blizzard with the "virtual" and Saturday night service. And, knowing that those assembled for that Valentine's Day service were praying for Tom when his name was read in the Prayers of the People, provided great comfort to us both.

At a time when we truly felt untethered from earth, we felt safely held and supported, as if by a heavenly web. God's love was tangible through the love and actions of our Trinity community.

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to the many voices that are speaking to us at any one time, and to separate out from them those that we believe represent the leading of God's Spirit in our community. One of the most moving dimensions of reading the New Testament is following the adventures of a genuinely Spirit-led community. Jesus and his followers didn't work with strategic plans, you know; their "plan" was to listen closely to the Spirit of God and then follow where they were led.

We at Trinity are on our way to creating a plan for our future. But our journey

to get there has been not so much one of planning as of listening. As these committees share their reports with the parish, I hope you too will join us in listening for the Spirit. Where is God leading us? What are we learning about living in community with each other? Who does God want us to become?

Those are discernment questions—distinguishing God's Spirit from the other spirits around us. "When the Spirit comes, he will guide you into all truth," Jesus told his disciples. Discernment involves opening our

I am happy and relieved to say that Tom is home and healing, and came to the 6pm service last weekend. And, like most Sunday nights, we stayed to have dinner with our Trinity friends. We joked, "Thanks guys, this church thing works!" And we gave thanks that, in ordinary and extraordinary times, the Trinity community is manifesting God's love in ways small and large. This is a beloved community indeed. **TL**

Connect to Community on Trinity Table

If you haven't signed up yet, here's some of what you're missing:

Copies of the reports from the liturgy study group and mission task force;

Each week's TrinityEvents;

The list of people we prayed for in church each week;

Provocative discussions;

And opportunities to connect with Trinity friends, old and new, as individuals and in small groups.

To sign up, visit trinitychurchboston.org/community-life/trinity-table

entire selves to the working of the Holy Spirit. A fine little book on discernment called *Grounded in God* puts it this way: "Our job is to let go of preconceived ideas so that we can be open to new possibilities that God may have in mind for us."

That's the exciting work happening now, as we prepare for a new phase of our life. As God is leading us to new places and new ways, our foremost job is to be attuned to God's presence as we discern where the Spirit is leading us in these exciting times. **TL**

Being Community

As a parish, we have been spending a lot of time in the past year learning, talking, and reflecting about what it means to be part of a community. Through our Pray Love Serve forums, at Gratitude Gatherings at parishioners' homes, at the anti-racism Symposium and the Parish Dinner and Cabaret last month, at weekly worship, in service to our homeless brothers and sisters, and in countless other ways, we at Trinity are talking a lot about—and living deeply together in—community. In ways both large and small, we've been connecting, getting to know one another better, caring for each other, and being of service in the world.



Peter Lawrence
Senior Warden

The Vestry has heard from a number of you that fostering community requires greater engagement, transparency and participation in decision-making. We have adopted these as guiding principles for our Year of Discovery and beyond. One early example of our commitment is the Decision-Making Protocol, which was adopted by the Vestry last November and is available to all on our website, and is in regular use. I hope that, through our actions and interactions, you will feel that we are living in to these principles.

As I write this, our Year of Discovery is at its midway point. The Liturgy Study Group and Mission Task Force have presented their findings at Forums this month, and the Building Committee has been scheduled to present their update in early March. Sharing these reports, and expanding the conversations to include the parish, is a critical part of engaging the whole community. Every voice is important to the discernment process of where God is calling Trinity Church at this time.

We are blessed to have such a gifted population, willing to give their time and energy and resources to the parish and diocese.

Another opportunity to participate in our community is our Annual Meeting. I encourage you to join us for an information-filled hour about the financial health, governance and outreach work of this parish that we all share. We will be reporting on the status of our 2015 Stewardship Campaign, the finalized budget for the year and the work of Trinity Boston Foundation and our ministries. We also will learn more about the transformative gift that a group of parishioners have pledged. Finally, we will vote for a slate of new Vestry members and delegates to various diocesan ministries.

The Annual Meeting provides an excellent time to say some formal "thank you's"—there are so many at Trinity whose



Paul Zintl, member of the Mission Task Force, shared some of the group's recommendations to a full forum on February 22, before parishioners broke up into small discussion groups. Copies of the Mission Task Force's Report are available for parishioners on the Trinity Table, with limited copies at the Parish House desk.

commitment and participation support this community. In the short space I have here, I would especially like to thank each of you who has made a pledge to support the ministries of Trinity Church. Thanks, also, to each of you who has answered a call to leadership with "Here I am." We are blessed to have such a gifted population, willing to give their time and energy and resources to the parish and diocese.

To echo the words of Bill Rich, I am grateful for each one of you, and for all you do to make Christ's community of love real in this parish and beyond. **TL**

The 2015-2016 Slate of Nominees

At the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2015, following the combined morning service at 10:00 am, the parish will elect an officer and members of the Vestry, and delegates to the Episcopal City Mission, the Diocesan Convention, and our region of the Diocese—the Boston Harbor Deanery. The process began with the Nominating Committee, appointed each year by the Wardens and the Vestry, which accepted candidate names for consideration and compiled this slate of nominees after a review of all those recommended. For 2015, the Nominating Committee included Robert Wood, Alex Bok, Laurie Buchta, Grace Clark, Kathleen Hirsch, Anne Ogilby, Doug Rendell, Mary Renner, Michael Widmer, and the Rev. Samuel T. Lloyd III.



Peter Lawrence

Senior Warden, term of four years

Pete has been a member of Trinity since 1999. During that time, he has served on the Stewardship Committee, including as co-chair, as chairperson of the Nominating Committee, as a board member of the Trinity Boston Foundation, as a member of the Vestry, and most recently as Senior Warden for the past 3 years. Pete's wife, Pam Warren, has served as a teacher with Children's Ministries and an organizer of parish events. Pete's older daughter, Jane (16), was confirmed last year, and his daughter Claire (13), is a regular attendee at Church. Pete is President of the biotechnology company, ArQule, Inc., and recently stepped down as a board member and vice-chairman of the Greater Boston Food Bank after a decade in those roles.



Thomas M. Clafin

Vestry, term of two years

Tom has been attending Trinity Church with varying degrees of regularity since 1960, when his parents became active members of the church. Tom has served as Trinity's representative to the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and is currently a member of the Mission Task Force. Retired from a 40-year career in venture capital in Boston, he has been actively working with several non-profit organizations as well as coaching a high school sports program. He and his wife, Rachel, were married at Trinity in 1984 and reside in Beacon Hill. Between them they have five married children and eight grandchildren.



Listo Fisher

Vestry, term of four years

Listo has been attending Trinity for nearly 40 years, where he has served as an usher and occasional Lector at the 11:15 am service, a delegate to the Episcopal City Mission, and on the *Trinity:Next* strategic planning committee and the Adult Christian Formation Task Force 2014. An award-winning newscaster, Listo's voice is recognizable throughout the Boston area from his many years on WBZ, WHDH, WRKO and WCRB, and throughout the Trinity

community as the voice of the Trinity Stewardship videos. A self-described "news junkie" and classical music lover, he lives in Brookline with his wife, Lydia Rodman, who was baptized at Trinity in 2002. They were married at Trinity in October 2005.



Lonsdale Koester

Vestry, term of four years

A member of Trinity Church since the mid-2000's Lonsdale has served on the Clergy Search, Budget, and Stewardship Committees, including co-chairing the annual pledge drive for campaign years 2013-15. She was recently appointed Executive Director of the non-profit organization Science Club for Girls, a leading provider of enrichment and mentoring programs in STEM fields for underserved girls in grades K-12. She is also on the board of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra. Lonsdale and her husband, Torin, live in Cambridge with their children Perre Coleman and Fritz.



Grace Lyons

Vestry, term of three years

Grace began attending Trinity Church in 2005, drawn in by our vibrant and engaging Softball Ministry. After attending Trinity's Inquirers' Class, she was confirmed and began attending our 6:00 pm service regularly. Grace returned to Trinity three years ago after a period of living overseas in Luxembourg and England. She has served or is serving on the Membership and Community Life Committees, and as a Lay Liturgist, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Inquirers' Class facilitator, and on the Softball teams and last year was an alternate delegate to the Diocesan Convention. Grace lives in South Boston with her husband of 16 years, Charlie, and their beagle, Willie.



Judith Lockhart Radtke

Delegate, Diocesan Convention

Judith has been a parishioner at Trinity since 2001. As founder and director of a development project for indigenous weavers in Oaxaca, Mexico, she arranged to have the craftspeople visit and sell their weavings at Trinity. Since 2011, she

has served on the Anti-Racism Team, and was involved with The Anti-Racism Prayer Book, the ART's History of Trinity, and Anne B. Bonnyman Symposium. Judith is married to the Rev. Warren Radtke.



Scott McIntyre

Delegate, Diocesan Convention

Scott has been a member of Trinity since 2010. He currently serves on the Stewardship Committee, participated on the Mission Task Force, and has been an Inquirers' Class facilitator and a Simple Supper volunteer. Scott also volunteers as an Old Sole running mentor with TBF's Sole Train. Professionally, after a career in business technology consulting, the last five years with IBM, Scott is now in graduate school, studying to become a Nurse Practitioner.



Kathleen Peets

Alternate Delegate,
Diocesan Convention

Kathleen has been attending Trinity since 1991 and has served the parish in a number of different capacities. She has been a small group facilitator for several Inquirers' and DOCC classes, was a delegate to the Boston Harbor Deanery for two years, and a member of the Stewardship Committee for three years. She has been a member of the Worship Team since 2006 and is currently a Lay Liturgist. Kathleen lives in East Boston and is the Director of Creative Services in Marketing and Communication at Suffolk University.



Michael Wood

Alternate Delegate,
Diocesan Convention

Michael found Trinity through a volunteer project. Curious, he decided to take the Inquirers' Class in 2012, and was received in the Episcopal Church in July of that year. Since then he has served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and most recently a Lay Liturgist. He is a recent graduate from Wheelock College with a Master of Social Work. He currently works as a counselor at McLean Hospital, an Intake Coordinator/Case Manager for Suffolk County at Mass Rehab/Home Care Assistance Program, and a Case Manager for a Home Care agency. Trinity Church has been a very important part of his life as well as his spiritual home.



Matthew Hutchings

Delegate, Boston Harbor Deanery

Matthew Hutchings has attended Trinity since moving to Boston from the UK in 2011. He has sung with the Trinity Choirs since early 2012, mostly at the 6pm service. Matthew served on the Liturgy Study Group, and is a member of Trinity's 20s and 30s community. He and his wife Mathilde, who met at Trinity, were married here in May 2014, and recently moved to Roslindale. He works for Safari, a publishing services company based in Boston's Seaport, where he supports academic and reference publishers as they move their businesses online.



Ruth Knopf

Delegate, Boston Harbor Deanery

Ruth has been an active Trinity parishioner for more than 18 years, serving as a Lay Liturgist, on the Community Life Committee, and as lay co-leader of the Inquirers' Class. When not at Trinity, she serves as one of the Commissioners for the Bay Village Historic District, enjoys cooking a meal to share with friends, reading, and working on needlepoint and knitting projects.



Carol Masshardt

Delegate, Episcopal City Mission

Carol has lived in Boston all of her adult life, and has attended Trinity since 1990. She is an active member of the Bereavement Group, served on the Homelessness Committee, and last year was one of Trinity's delegates to Episcopal City Mission. She received her Master of Social Work Degree at Boston College, and has held a number of leadership roles at Boston non-profit agencies. She currently is the Director of Field Education and teaches at Bridgewater State University. Carol is also a published writer of short stories and poetry.



Nancy Scull

Delegate, Episcopal City Mission

A lifelong Episcopalian, Nancy joined Trinity Church in 1999 after retiring from a 30-year career in marketing and communications in the computer industry. She deepened her faith through DOCC, various gospel courses, EfM, and regular attendance at Forums. She now serves as both a Lector and a LEM, participated in the 2014 Holy Land Pilgrimage, and is a member of Trinity's Mission Task Force. Her non-profit company, Friends of Meali, focuses on education in Tanzania.

On The Doorstep: Helping Our Homeless Neighbors



Photo by Matthew Kulas



Photo by Pat Hurley

Top, Ginnie Walden discusses her ministry with the Rev. Rainey G. Dankel and the Rev. Bill Rich. **Above,** Bob Yearwood distributes gift cards from local supermarkets prior to Thanksgiving.

Ginnie Walden: Minister of the Streets

By Barbara R. Bodengraven,
Communications Manager

Her white stick tap-tapping out the message that she is sight-impaired, Lay Eucharistic Minister and homeless outreach advocate Ginnie Walden gains entrée into Copley Square alleyways, overhangs and darkened doorways where the homeless dwell. The homeless men she sought out one recent Sunday following the 6:00 pm service and Simple Supper—the time she usually engages in her unique ministry—easily accepted her approach. One even greeted her with open arms.

“Hello,” she called into the outside overhang of the Back Bay T station. “Would it be OK if we came to say hello?”

A bearded older gentleman, surrounded by scattered cardboard and a battered, burgundy-colored suitcase, beckoned her close. Ginnie tapped her way toward him and went in for an embrace. His barely audible voice drew her closer again when she asked him where he planned to sleep that night. “I’ll be here. When the Lord wants me, he’ll take me,” he said as he reached out a dirt-encrusted hand for the Communion wafer and bent forward as Ginnie anointed his forehead.

Two more homeless men approached. One appeared to be no more than 18 years old. All our faces—homeless or not—looked wan and wary in the light of a nearby pink and orange neon Dunkin’ Donuts sign. “Are you giving away socks? Do you have any hand warmers? What about gloves?” the young man asked. Ginnie gave him all of that, along with several Nutri-Grain bars.

I was only along on Ginnie’s ministerial rounds, I had informed her earlier, as the “dispassionate reporter.” I felt myself failing in that regard as we interacted with the young man, who told us that he had been on the

“Are you giving away socks? Do you have any hand warmers? What about gloves?”

streets since his father had died two and a half months earlier. I noticed his thin-soled, blue sneakers, his back pack slung over one shoulder—as if he were on his way home from high school—when Ginnie asked him his name and where he was from. I insisted he take more hand warmers. I called him ‘honey.’ I wondered if he thought adult shelters were too dangerous for young men. I wondered if he liked hamburgers and French fries, if those sneakers would keep his feet warm and how long it had been since anyone had called him ‘honey.’ I asked him none of that, of course. When Ginnie offered him Communion, he retreated toward the shadows. “What’s that?” he asked, clearly perplexed. “No,” he said, after Communion was explained. “I’m all right.”

What appears to be second-nature for Ginnie is not for many of us. It takes a stout heart to do what she does, an awareness of keeping heart and head in balance, a certain equanimity and fortitude that conveys compassion yet also maintains distance. As she says, “not everyone’s comfort zone includes engaging a drunken homeless man in prayer and talking with him about his recently deceased son.” But Ginnie is passionate about what she calls a “sacramental ministry of the streets” and is hopeful that Trinity Church will increase its ministry to the homeless

population in a more relational way.

She’s been making her homeless “visits” as a Eucharistic Minister since Holy Week 2012, when she felt moved to save her own Communion wafer she received at Trinity’s altar and went out after the service to distribute it to five homeless people sleeping on the Church’s porches. Now, she is formally commissioned by members of the clergy either from the altar during service or afterwards at the Simple Supper. She now also travels with a gold box of consecrated hosts and small bottle of holy oil—not to mention the practical items of gloves, socks and hand warmers in winter. Sometimes a clergy member accompanies her, sometimes various parishioners or regular attendees of worship go along, or—if no one else can go with her—sometimes she goes out by herself.

When asked if she ever felt in danger during her Sunday night h o m e l e s s visits, she said, “I always ask them if I can come in close and visit. If

“We have a covenantal relationship with the homeless. They are our brothers and sisters living outside in Copley Square.”

someone tells me to get the ---- away—excuse my French—that’s what I do. They must be allowed choice.” Schooled in social justice and an advanced degree in Divinity, Ginnie has embraced her Christian calling as a minister of the streets. “I’m living by my belief that we can all only become one by intentionally developing real relationships with one another. We’re not social workers here. We have a covenantal relationship with the homeless. They are our brothers and sisters living outside in Copley Square.” **TL**

Sleeping in the Shadow of Trinity

“Being homeless has made me more spiritual. My relationship with God is stronger now,” says Ron Merow, after spending three-plus years sleeping on Trinity Church porches. While he doesn’t feel drawn to formal worship service, he does wait for Lay Eucharistic Minister Ginnie Walden to visit him on Sunday nights and share the Eucharist with him.

With his worldly possessions in a grocery cart, Ron spends his days sitting at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth Streets outside Old South Church, where he shares as much of his story that will fit on a piece of cardboard. “I do panhandle,” Merow says, “but I never harass. I simply give people the choice to help me out.”

Living in the shadow of two prominent Copley Square churches is preferable to homeless shelters, which he tried in the first months after losing both his job and his apartment in Dedham. “What I found in those shelters made me so uncomfortable,” he says. “The prevalence of alcohol and drugs – it ruins so many people’s lives. I couldn’t trust the people staying in the shelters and didn’t want to be with them.”

Today, Merow is hoping that his days on the street are numbered. He credits Trinity clergy with helping him locate a home at Yearwood House, the single room occupancy rooming house funded by Trinity Church and Pine Street Inn near Fenway. He hopes to be able to move in soon. “Just when I think that things can’t get any worse,” Merow says, “God is there to help me. This kind of a thing has happened to me over and over again. It feels like some kind of divine intervention. I’m ready and hoping the room for me comes through.” **TL**



Living Our Faith



Top left, A young parishioner greets a new friend at the Heifer Fair and Alternative Giving Market in December 2014. • **Top right**, A trained yoga instructor and experienced long distance runner, the Rev. Rita Powell presented a Pray Love Serve forum on incorporating the body into one's prayer practice. Christian Formation Forums and lectures are available on video on the Trinity website within a few days of their presentation. You can find them at trinitychurchboston.org/news/learning.

Above, Candlelight Carols drew record-breaking crowds in 2014 to observe the Advent and Christmas seasons in story and song.

Top, Thirty-two souls were baptized at Trinity in 2014, including 6 babies on All Souls Sunday. The Nwosu twins (pictured here) were baptized by the Rev. Jep Streit of St. Paul's Cathedral, who had married the parents. Photo by Beverly Fisher Crawford.

Above, The Play of Daniel, a powerful medieval mystery play telling the story of the prophecies, tribulations, and triumph of the young Biblical hero was performed in November in the Church by the world-renowned Boston Camerata, featuring several Trinity Choristers.

Top, Several Trinity parishioners and The Rev. Sam Lloyd and s joined the Religious Leaders for Long Island Refugees and others in Boston Common before Thanksgiving for an interfaith rally to raise awareness and demand housing and services for the 700+ people evicted from the Long Island Shelter.

Above, Rector Sam Lloyd and Trinity Boston Foundation Executive Director Louise Packard share the spotlight with the stars of this fall's "Overcoming the Odds" Breakfast Meeting—TBF participants and event speakers Ralph Casseus, Laura Gonzalez and Nicholas Davis. Photo by Laura Hajar.

Trinity Church a 'Locomotive' in the Fight Against Racism in Boston

As published by the Episcopal News Service on January 26, 2015

During Martin Luther King weekend, Children's Defense Fund Founder and President Marian Wright Edelman issued a rallying cry to the predominantly white 900-plus attendees at Boston's Trinity Church anti-racism symposium: "Wake up! [Martin Luther King] is not coming back. We're it!"



Barbara R. Bodengraven
Communications
Manager

Edelman's keynote address was part sermon, part battle cry, part great commission to the people of faith.

"When it comes to racial justice and race relations, it's about time the faith community is the locomotive rather than the caboose!"

Edelman underscored her exhortations with staggering statistics: "51.3% of black babies are born into poverty; 80% of black children in this country cannot read at grade level in 4th or 8th grade." She called poverty "racism's twin." Her fiery demeanor as well as her rhetoric underscored Trinity Rector Samuel T. Lloyd's introduction to the event. "Our gathering here is no small matter," Lloyd said at the outset. "Racism continues to diminish and undermine our entire country."

Trinity Church in the City of Boston hosted its inaugural Anne B. Bonnyman Symposium—"We Still Have a Dream: End Racism"—Sunday, Jan. 18, 2015. It was the first of what the church's anti-racism team, the organizers of this year's event, hope will be a series designed to bring current issues to the fore for members of the parish as well as the public. The series is named in honor of former Trinity Rector Anne Berry Bonnyman,



Above, Bishop Michael Curry of North Carolina preached at the 9 and 11:15am services on Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, and appeared at that afternoon's Anne B. Bonnyman Symposium, "We Still Have a Dream: End Racism." At left, panelists Bishop Curry and author Debby Irving, Rev. Liz Walker and activist Tim Wise and Children's Defense Fund President Marian Wright Edelman discussed racism.

a passionate defender of the poor and activist for racial and social justice.

In his introductory remarks, Lloyd also noted that the relevance of the topic as well as its timing was not lost on its organizers. Only a few weeks earlier, crowds had processed through Boston and past the periphery of the parish to express outrage at the inordinate number of black men—and 12-year-old boy—killed recently during altercations with police in Missouri, New York, and Ohio.

In her address, Edelman referenced the "cradle to prison pipeline for poor, black children," correlating the disproportionate number of incarcerated black men to the substandard schooling they had received as children in



poor neighborhoods, resulting illiteracy rates, despair and joblessness. Another prominent event speaker and guest preacher during Trinity Church services that morning, the Right Rev. Michael P. Curry, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina and first African-American bishop of a southern Episcopal diocese, directed his remarks to what he called "the apathetic Church."

"When we in the Church are silent, we blaspheme," Curry said. "Conformity to cultural reality yields to silence all too easily. It's only by acting 'crazy,' being willing to take risks and follow the crucified one, that we will move closer to dismantling racism."

Both Curry and Edelman joined in a discussion panel with other speakers, authors and activists. Panelist Rev. Liz Walker, Pastor of Boston's Roxbury Presbyterian Church, humanitarian

"It's only by acting 'crazy,' being willing to take risks and follow the crucified one, that we will move closer to dismantling racism."

worker in Sudan and former television reporter, faulted the media for not taking a more pro-active role in calling out the debilitating effects of racism and not helping people understand its connection to prevailing social ills. Walker recalled her own painful experiences of being snubbed and assaulted as an African-American in the predominantly all-white school she attended in Little Rock, Ark. She also confessed to struggling with her own issues of hope. "I'm now pastor of a church located in the midst of all that ails this country," said Walker. "It's only two miles from here, but I've seen more hopelessness there than I've seen on all my trips to Sudan."

Panelist Debby Irving, author of *Waking Up White*, spoke to her own awakening as a privileged young white woman in a wealthy suburb of Boston. "I always thought the playing field was level for everyone," said Irving. "I had absorbed messages from my family and culture that white people are superior and that anger at injustice was not a valuable social norm. I was ill-equipped to make King's dream a reality."

Tim Wise, author of *White Like Me* and other books addressing racial inequality, spoke to the tangible evidence of racism in poor black neighborhoods: "When I visit a new city and see the lack of care and

money invested in a neighborhood's infrastructure—its ruined roads and broken street lamps—I know I'm in a poor black neighborhood. When this is no longer the case, I'll know that systemic racism has finally died."

Wise, who has spent years working as an activist and racial justice educator, has trained corporate, government, law enforcement and medical industry professionals on methods for dismantling racism in their institutions. In the same vein, Boston's Trinity Church has consulted with racial justice educators and consultants, and spent the last several years conducting an examination of its own 300-year-old history with regards to institutional racism. Not surprisingly, its findings mirror attitudes and policies prevalent among much of secular society in previous eras. Regarding the study, clergy and church administrators believe that the act of self-examination provides important context for choosing new and creative directions.

Those new directions are behind the creation of the Anne Berry Bonnyman symposium series as well as other, more grass-roots actions that include the creation, in 2007, of Trinity Boston Foundation—a separate 501c3 nonprofit comprised of educational, character development and leadership programs designed to help Boston's youth overcome the odds. In addition, the Church's anti-racism team facilitates a monthly book club as well as what it calls a "Talking Circle" to advance understanding and dialogue regarding issues of race.

Trinity Church, as Edelman might say, is putting its money where its mouth is. "Lots of people like to celebrate and name streets after Martin Luther King," Edelman said. "Only the few actually want to build a more just society." **TL**

Acolytes Reflect on Leading Worship

For many people, seeing teenaged acolytes carrying the processional cross and candles is an iconic image of Trinity's worship. In the wake of our fall Forum series focusing on prayer, we had a chance to hear the reflections of four of our acolytes on what leading our common prayer means for them.



Mary Davenport Davis
Youth Minister

The teens interviewed agreed that acolyting helps them feel more grounded in the Trinity community. "It's really cool to kind of be behind the scenes, and while being a part of the service, to know how it functions," says India Claudy, 13. "It makes me feel like more of a part of the church." Her brother Henry Claudy, 15, agrees: "It makes the church feel a lot more personal... Being more of a part of the service makes me want to become more involved." Rebecca Hughes, 14, says, "My favorite part of leading worship is the sense of community you feel."

For Talia Bode-Ward, 14, acolyting is central to her experience of church: "I attend church for the familial and community reasons," she says. "Being an acolyte has made me really appreciate the communal aspects of the church."

"My favorite part of leading worship is the sense of community you feel."

Trinity acolytes find that serving in church makes it more interesting: "Since I started, I haven't sat in the church once," says Rebecca. "It makes church more fun for me and it has become something I look forward to. I like having a job and a purpose in church." For India, acolyting makes church "more fun. It makes me feel like there's more to church than meets the eye for a normal parishioner."

"I would say that acolyting has helped me develop my idea of religion and God."

Acolytes also find themselves in closer relationships with one another, with the acolyte mentors, and with God. "There is great humor and grace on display every Sunday, serving in a multi-generational church environment," says Talia, who also notes the "welcoming tone" that is part of the group's leadership DNA. And for Henry, being an acolyte provided an entryway into thinking about faith: "Before I was an acolyte, I didn't really pay much attention to the sermon and the service itself... And the combination of growing up, becoming more of a free, independent thinking person, and being able to have these resources in church, not just knowing what God did—not only knowing



Acolytes play key roles in both regular Sunday services and special services such as Good Friday and Candlelight Carols liturgies.

the Bible, but seeing how it affects people—I would say that acolyting has helped me develop my idea of religion and God."

Acolytes help all find God anew in the ancient patterns of our liturgy, while they themselves are supported by the rest of the church community. If you or someone you know would like to join this team, please contact Barbie Savacool or Richie Worthen. **TL**

Interested in becoming an acolyte?

Contact Barbie Savacool, bsavacool@myfairpoint.net or Richie Worthen, richieworthen@gmail.com

Ministry with—and by—Children

In a recent email to the Cherubs class (3- and 4-year-olds) teachers talking about the upcoming lesson on Matthew 19, when Jesus blesses the children, our Assistant Director of Children's Ministries, Marissa Soto-Ortiz, said, "I love this story, as it shows how important all of the kids are to Him,



Cathy Portlock
Director of Children's Ministries

how he wanted them to come to Him." I couldn't agree more. Children were deeply important in the life and ministry of Jesus.

One of the things I love most about ministering to and with children at Trinity is homily. Our children's sermons are often dialogue sermons, in which children are encouraged to ask questions and comment on whatever Scriptural passage we are learning about. I am so often touched and amazed at what the children have to say.

So often I feel I am learning from them as much, if not more, than they might be learning from me. So often they are my teachers.

Just before Thanksgiving, we were talking about how we can "live thanks." One of our kindergarteners piped up, "We need to be nice to people, because God made them and they're connected to God. When we're nice to others, it's like we're being nice to God. That's how we can show we are thankful." Another Sunday, during an Advent homily, we were discussing giving. One of our lower elementary kids remarked that "The meaning of Christmas is to give because Jesus gave everything to us." Both, deeply teachable moments. Both, children teaching.

This can happen in the classrooms as well. Our Kindergarten through 3rd Grade classrooms use Godly Play, a Montessori-based method of spiritual formation which uses "wondering questions" to help children reflect on Scriptural stories and liturgical acts. Once I was sharing the story of the Exodus with a first-grade class. We sat around the "desert box," a large box filled with sand that is used when telling stories that take place in the desert. I shared with the children about Moses being called to return to Egypt to free the Children of Israel. We talked about Pharaoh, we talked about the plagues, and finally we got to the point where Pharaoh has ordered the children of Israel to leave, and Moses has led them to the banks of the Red Sea.

I laid two strips of blue felt across the desert box to signify the sea, and placed a number of wooden figures on one side of it. With the words, "God came so close to Moses and Moses came so close to God that he knew how to take the people through the water into freedom," I folded each piece of felt back a bit to make a passage through the water. As I



The Rev. Bill Rich offers ashes to a child during the Children's Homily on the first Sunday of Lent, February 22.

brought the figures through one at a time, I commented on them: "This one is running." "This one is happy and dancing." "This one looks so scared he can barely move."

At the end of the lesson, I began the wondering questions, asking the children, "I wonder what part of the story you liked best?" or "I wonder what part of the story is the most important?" The children had many answers: "I liked the water part" or "The most important part is the freedom." When I asked a common wondering question, "I wonder what part of the story is about you?" one of the little boys said, "I'm the scared one at the water... because I am always scared when I need to try something new." Talk about the movement of the Spirit! This 6-year-old child made a connection between the Scriptures and his own life that many adults might not make. This child taught me to look at the story of the Exodus in a new way—not just as a piece of Hebrew history or tradition, but as a commentary on how I might approach new situations and places. Do I approach them with joy or with trepidation?

Another child who has been my teacher is named Emily. Years ago, when she was in second grade, she taught me a profound lesson. I had asked her class to draw pictures of what they thought of when they thought of God. Many of the children drew pictures of the sky, or the earth, or of a bearded old man on a throne. But Emily drew a picture of an ice cream cone. When I asked her what it was about an ice cream cone that made her think about God, her answer was quick and said with deep certainty. "You know when you have an ice cream cone it makes your tummy feel all good inside? Well, when you have God, it makes everything all good inside. God is even better than ice cream."

Indeed. God is even better than ice cream. And so often, by word and deed, it is children who show us this is so. **TL**

TEEP Grad Steven Rodenas Realizing His Dreams

Steven was astounded by the Blue Hills. Mesmerized by the Museum of Science. Thrilled to see real paintings “on the walls of the Fine Arts Museum. “ Suddenly, everything was brand new,” he says, recalling the summer field trips he went on as a Trinity Education for Excellence Program (TEEP) participant beginning in 6th grade. “I began to realize I had passions, that there was a big world to explore and I could be part of it.”

“I used the Foundation’s core values to help me become the person I wanted to be.”

As a young man of color born in Boston to an immigrant family, Steven did not have the resources, confidence or

knowledge to discover the city on his own. As he says, he intentionally kept a low profile. “I didn’t want to be noticed. In my experience, it led to problems. And because of that, I didn’t venture far afield. Also, low income kids don’t have the opportunity to take advantage of resources right in their own backyard.”

If Steven was profoundly affected by Trinity Boston Foundation’s TEEP, he was equally as energized by the Foundation’s other signature program—



After majoring in business at Boston College, Steven realized that he really wanted to be a teacher. He now teaches history at Leadership Prep Bedford Stuyvesant Middle Academy in the Bronx. Most of his students qualify for free breakfast and lunch programs, and face the same challenges he did before enrolling in TBF programs..

Sole Train: Boston Runs Together. It was, in fact, during training for Sole Train’s half-marathon while in high school that he experienced another moment of illumination: “If I could run a half-marathon, I realized I could do anything I put my mind to.” Witness his recent completion of the NYC Marathon.

Steven attributes his success as an undergraduate at Boston College and post-graduate employment as a 5th-grade history teacher in one of New York’s impoverished neighborhoods to Trinity Boston Foundation. “I used the Foundation’s core values to help me become the person I wanted to be. Now I’m passing that on to my students.” TL

Listening is an act of love

Hear first-hand how Boston’s courageous young people are claiming their futures against enormous odds. Several participants in Trinity Boston Foundation’s programs will share their stories, vision and hopes at this year’s **BOSTONIANS FOR YOUTH** annual gala and call-to-action to eliminate youth violence, unlock opportunities, and change the odds for the youth of Boston. Your participation supports Trinity Boston Foundation’s ongoing efforts to build resilient young leaders, strong families, and safe communities.

More info and tickets at trinityinspires.org/bostoniansforyouth, or contact Brianna Boggs, bboggs@trinityinspires.org, 617-536-0944 x313.



Be Inspired This Spring

PRICE LECTURES



Christ Actually: The Son of God for the Secular Age
Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 pm, Church
NY Times best-selling author, and Boston Globe columnist, **James Carroll** will deliver one of our Price Lectures. He will be speaking out of his new book *Christ Actually: The Son of God for the*

Secular Age. Drawing on the best of contemporary scholarship, as well as his own reflections, Carroll addresses the question: who is Jesus the Christ for us and for our time in history? He probes topics that are vital for us as Christians today: How the Jewishness of Jesus matters; What it means to proclaim and follow Jesus as Son of God; The centrality of Jesus’ care for the marginalized, especially women; How his life, death, and resurrection are God’s protest against violence. Book-signing to follow.



Overlooked Ways of Meeting God
Sunday, April 12,
1:30 pm-3:00 pm, Church
Author of *Girl Meets God* and *Mudhouse Sabbath*, **Lauren Winner** is a leading voice at the crossroads of spirituality and culture, and a vibrant exponent for the renewal of spiritual

life among young Americans. She will be speaking out of her new book exploring neglected images of God whose richness and depths can help revive and deepen our spiritual lives.

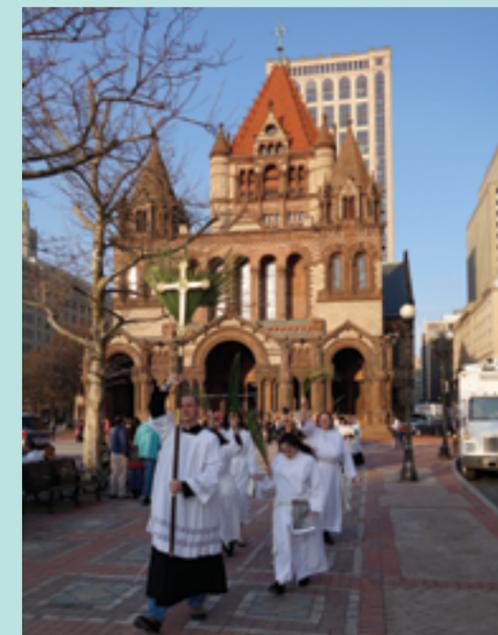
LISTEN

Rachmaninoff’s Vespers
Friday, May 8, 7:30 pm, Church
Join the Trinity Choirs as they sing Sergei Rachmaninoff’s transcendent All-Night Vigil in its 100th anniversary year. Tickets: \$10, \$30 trinitychurchboston.tix.com

HONOR

Trinity Circle Sunday is May 31
Mark your calendar for this special Sunday as we honor members of Trinity Circle, which includes all those who have included Trinity in their estate plans. If you have made Trinity part of your will or estate plan, please let the Stewardship Office know so that we can include your name in this group of faithful supporters.

For more information on planned giving:
Kelsey Bogdan, Director of Stewardship,
kbogdan@trinitychurchboston.org, 617-536-0944



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday • March 29
Services at 9:00 am, 11:15 am, 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm

Holy Tuesday • March 31
Holy Eucharist at 12:10 pm

Holy Wednesday • April 1
Holy Eucharist at 12:10 pm

Mundy Thursday • April 2
Footwashing & Communion at 7:00 pm

Good Friday • April 3
The Passion Liturgy at 12:00 noon-3:00 pm

Children’s Service • April 3
During Good Friday Service in the Forum

Stations of the City • April 3
Meet on Copley Porch at 3:15 pm
In partnership with neighboring churches, we walk a prayerful path in memory of Christ’s Good Friday passion, and to reflect and pray for our city.

Good Friday Concert • April 3
La Farge Ensemble, starts at 5:30 pm

Easter Vigil • April 4
Service begins at 8:00 pm; bring bells!

Easter Day • April 5
Services at 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 noon, 6:00 pm



Trinity Church

in the City of Boston

Copley Square
206 Clarendon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116-3722



St. Paul's Cathedral Choir

Thursday, April 16, 7:00 pm, Church

Trinity is honored to welcome the renowned choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, on their first US tour since 2003.

Come hear this exceptional choir of men and boys perform the musical treasures of the Anglican choral tradition.

Tickets: \$10, \$30, \$50 trinitychurchboston.tix.com

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