

In this issue

- 2 "The Lost Generation"
- 3 Rector Search Update
- 4 Trinity Happenings
- 5 July Calendar
- 6 July Volunteer Schedule
- 8 Prayers Concerns
- 9 Birthdays and Anniversaries



Trinity Tribune July 2016

Sam's letter

by Rev. Samuel A. Mason ObjN

Slowing Down

I was with a group recently that was repeatedly saying, "I want my summer." It reminded me of the many times I have come to the fall and said, "What happened to my summer?" Now is the time to think about that.

There is a natural ebb and flow in our life in the church. Although I have not been a part of Trinity long enough to discern that rhythm, I want to urge you all to slow down when you feel the need. Summer is a great time to breathe a little easier. Do the things that will renew your spirit.

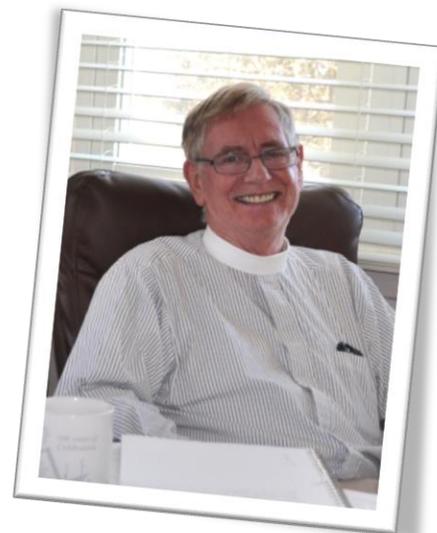
In keeping with that, we will not be having the Wednesday Holy Eucharist during July and August. We will resume that service in September on the Wednesday after Labor Day.

I will be taking some time off in August to travel and visit my children and grandchildren. I urge each of you to do what you can to take care of yourselves, so that at the end of the summer you won't be asking, "What happened to my summer?"

There is one special event that I hope you will all plan to attend. On July 17, our Regional Canon, The Rev. Earnest Graham, and Catherine Massey, Canon for Transition and Pastoral Ministries, will be here to conduct a data gathering session on what Trinity is looking for in her new rector. This is a very important meeting. You will find more info about this in this newsletter.

May summer be refreshing and restful for you.

Faithfully,
Sam+



"This article originally appeared in the spring 2016 issue of The North Carolina Disciple."

The Lost Generation

By the Rev. Robert Black

Resurrecting formation within the family

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...."

- Matthew 28:19

In the Great Commission, Jesus instructs his followers to baptize and make disciples; that is, to form and teach people. The goal of Christian formation is, then, to know the Christian narrative, own the faith as part of one's identity, and make known to others the Good News of God in Christ.

But answers to Jesus' call have become diluted over the last few decades, not through the fault of the followers, but because entire generations have not been given the tools they need in their formation as Christians.

OUTSOURCED

"Sunday schools" first began in the late 18th century, though not as what we know them to be today. They were a means to educate and teach children of the working class to read, as nothing like our public school system then existed. In the 1820s, the focus of Sunday schools shifted to cultivating religious literacy. Up until then, religion was taught primarily in the household, and faith formation was a family affair. Sunday school programs were intended to support faith formation that was already happening at home, but slowly they became the primary method of teaching children about the Christian narrative and life. By the middle of the 20th century, with the rise of the two-income household, this task of raising children in the faith was essentially "outsourced" to the Church.

The effects were stark. Survey data and experience show that when it comes to both religious literacy and affiliation, outsourcing Christian education to the Church has not been especially successful. It's not surprising. Christianity is really about formation, not education, but we've been using an educational model (Sunday school) and expecting transformative results.

Formation doesn't happen in a classroom; it happens through lived experience. Across the country, congregations are trying to figure out how to respond. Some are ignoring the warning signs, some are trying to find the nonexistent, magical curriculum that will draw children and families in, while others have completely abandoned any sort of program for Christian formation.

The simple truth is that even if a child (or adult) comes to Sunday school every week, it adds up to only 52 hours a year. And while that amount of time is a great start, and Sunday school can be a wonderful way to guide and inform, it alone is not enough to establish roots for the transformative discipleship we seek. At best, the church has "access" to children and youth for an hour a

week for Sunday school. Families, however, have so many more opportunities to engage in various forms of Christian discipleship.

SET THE EXAMPLE

There is also the issue of prioritization and example-setting. Children learn by observation. If we say that faith is important, but our children are not given the experiences of praying as a family, talking about religion or reading the Bible at home, they will likely conclude that faith is not, in fact, important. If we encourage going to church only if there isn't anything else on the calendar, children will conclude church is not especially important. When a child is baptized, the entire congregation promises to do all in its power to support the child in his or her life in Christ. If we make that promise and then fail to participate in faith formation ministries, parents and children alike may question our commitment to the community of faith.

It is the task of the church to do the holy work of modeling that commitment. We have lost at least one generation in regard to Christian formation, and we're in danger of losing another because parents can teach their children only what they know. For parents not given the tools of formation in their own childhood, there is no shame or guilt in not knowing the story of the Bible or how to lead your family in prayer. That lack of knowledge is not your failing; it is the Church's. But we need to remedy that.

The Church can fight against culture and demand consistent attendance, but that is not likely to be very edifying or fruitful. Instead, it needs to give families the tools to do the critical work of formation. That way, when a family is on vacation or at a sports tournament on Sunday morning, they know that they can open the *Book of Common Prayer* and find appropriate prayers. We can find ways to teach the Biblical narrative and inspire regular practices of prayer and Scripture reading, not just on Sunday, but every day. Our Christian faith is not about what we know, it is about how we live. If our focus is on education, some people will know about Jesus. If our focus is on equipping people for (trans)formation, people will follow Jesus.

As part of The Episcopal Church, we also have access to one of the best tools for formation: our liturgy. Our liturgy teaches and forms people on a weekly basis; how much more could it do so if we used our liturgies to their fullest extent? What if we used our rich resources to pray about life events, to give thanks and to lament? What if we spent more time engaging in the practice of mystagogy, or talking about what the liturgy means and seeks to do? What if we prioritized celebrating the Church calendar throughout the year? We just might be more deeply formed as disciples.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, wrote "Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep." (Romans 13:11) This is a call to action. It is time for all of us to prioritize faith formation in our lives. It is time to ask for help when you don't know the Christian story or you don't know how to teach it to your children. As Presiding Bishop Curry has told us all, in order to go out, we first need to go deep. May God bless you as you seek to go deeper in your faith.



The Search Committee needs valuable input from the congregation on Sunday, July 17.

Trinity will be having only one service Sunday, July 17 at 9:30 and immediately following there will be a Trinity Forum held by Canon Graham and Catherine Massey from the Diocese.

This is an important process to help the Search Committee write the profile for our church to help give an accurate depiction of who Trinity is and what holds us together as a congregation.

Please mark your calendar to attend.

Thank you,

Beckie Derrick

Search Committee Chairwoman

Please keep our search committee in your prayers as they prepare for this task. The discernment committee members are as follows:

Chair:

Beckie Derrick - r.robbins67@yahoo.com
- 336-529-4463

Members:

Brenda Goings - brendanichol@earthlink.net
- 336-786-9218

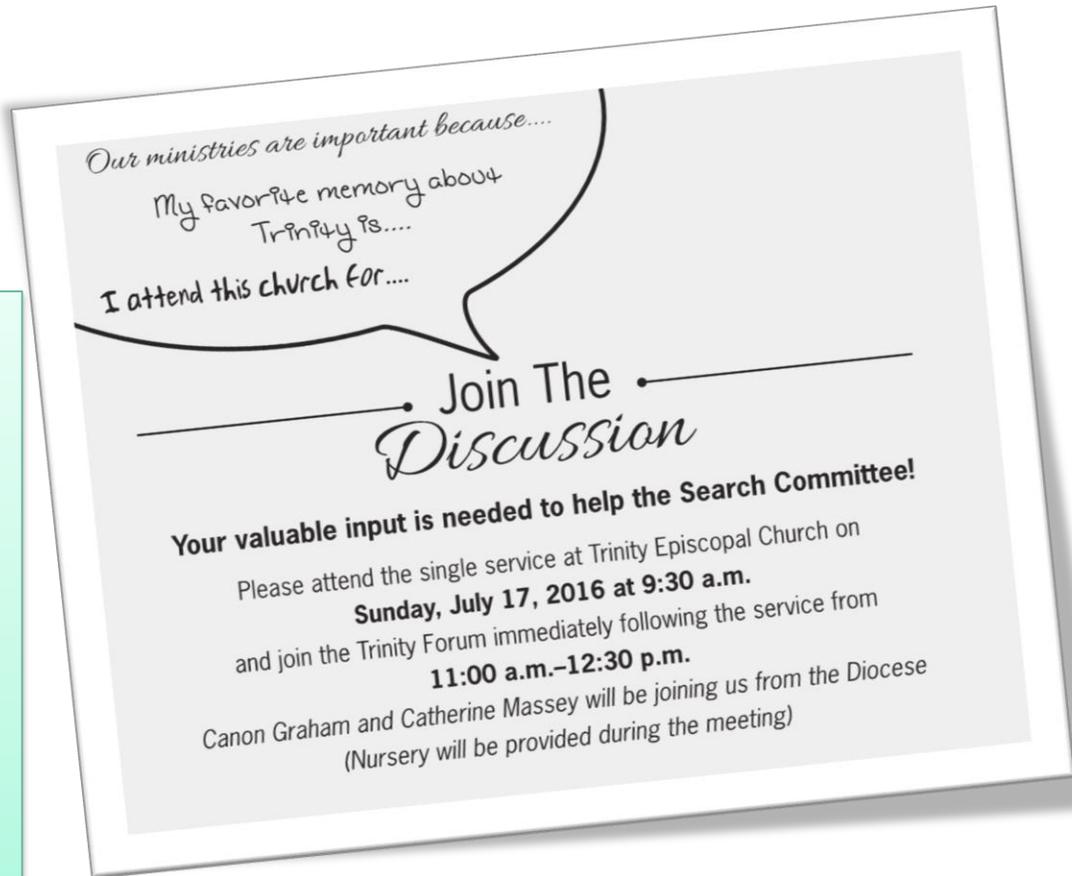
Margie Martin - cmartin119@triad.rr.com
- 336-755-3242

Mike Wilson - wilsonm1970@yahoo.com
- 336-401-2505

Jim Wuenscher - jwuenscher@centurylink.net
- 276-398-4243

The search committee members will be open to input from all members of the congregation, and they will welcome feedback and questions at this important time.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Rector for Trinity Church that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.





Book Group

Trinity Book Group will take a break during the summer. Members continue to read *Letters from the Farm* by the Rev. Becca Stevens. The meditations in the book are divided by seasons of the year, so we will pick up again in the fall. Stay tuned for dates and times. Please contact Brenda Goings if you have any questions.



ECW

The next scheduled meeting will be held on September 11. The ECW will soon be preparing for the Autumn Leaves Festival, which is an important way for Trinity to connect with our community.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Parlor.



Coffee Hour

If you would like to host Coffee Hour please sign up on the sheet posted in the Parish Hall. Partner with a friend or another couple. We provide the coffee and you provide a light snack of your choice. Many dates are available.



Wednesday Bible Study

Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. We are continuing the book titled *Misquoting Jesus* by Bart D. Ehrman.



www.thistlefarms.org

The women of Thistle Farms will spend a day with us at Trinity! This organization in Nashville, TN was founded in 1997 by The Rev. Becca Stevens and has become a powerful community of women who are healing from trafficking, prostitution and addiction. Their cottage industry making bath and other products, as well as selling many fair trade items has provided meaningful work and income for hundreds of women.

On Wednesday, August 3 our parish hall will be filled with their stories and products (for sale) and will be a site for making new friends with folks who will come from many different parts of our area. Please come and invite your friends for this wonderful experience! Doors will be open from 11am to 5pm, and the women of Trinity will provide snacks. At 5:30 p.m. Thistle Farms women who are survivors will give a presentation in the sanctuary. Our Book Group and ECW are all involved with bringing this ministry to our community. Press releases and flyers are coming soon!

Donations to Thistle Farms will be graciously accepted.....

Trinity Church Calendar, Godly Play, Holidays in United States							Jul 2016 (Eastern Time)	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	1	2
26	27	28	29	30	31			
8:30am - Holy communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 10am - Prayer Shawl 4pm - Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	6 8:30am - Staples Program	7 8:30am - Staples Program	8 8:30am - Staples Program	9 8:30am - Staples Program		
10 8:30am - Holy communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	11 7pm - Vestry Meeting	12 4pm - Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Pub theology	13 4pm - Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Pub theology	14 8:30am - Staples Program	15 8:30am - Staples Program	16 8:30am - Staples Program		
17 9:30am - Holy Communion 11am - Search Committee	18	19 4pm - Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	20 4pm - Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	21 8:30am - Staples Program	22 8:30am - Staples Program	23 8:30am - Staples Program		
24 8:30am - Holy communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	25	26 4pm - Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Pub Theology @	27 4pm - Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Pub Theology @	28 8:30am - Staples Program	29 8:30am - Staples Program	30 8:30am - Staples Program		
31 8:30am - Holy communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	1	2	3	4	5	6		

July Volunteer Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Coffee Hour</i>	<i>Usher</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Chalice Bearer</i>	<i>Flowers</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Candles</i>
<i>July 3 8:30 am 10:30 am</i>	Kate Appler	Maureen Hill	Ann Cochrane David Wallace	Mike Wilson Jake Mayer	Charlie & Mary Ellen Graham	Linda Micheals	Gail Mayer
<i>July 10 8:30 am 10:30 am</i>	Jill & Ross Borders	Beckie Derrick	Ann Cochrane James Kemp	Mark Goad Wendy Tatman	Eric & Denny Jennings	Mary Fawcett	Gail Mayer
<i>July 17 9:30 am</i>	Wendy Tatman	Margie Martin	Vicky Town	Mike Wilson	James & Beckie Derrick	Vicky Town	Gail Mayer
<i>July 24 8:30 am 10:30 am</i>	Volunteer Needed	Bill Noble	Ann Cochrane James Derrick	Mark Goad Wendy Tatman	Margie Martin	Martha Marcum	Gail Mayer
<i>July 31 8:30 am 10:30 am</i>	Charlie & Mary Ellen Graham	Bruce Strohl	Ann Cochrane Gloria Lawrence	Mike Wilson Jake Mayer	Gary & Mary Ann Cook	Margie Martin	Gail Mayer

Just a reminder...

There will be no Wednesday Holy Communion services during July & August. This service will resume the Wednesday following Labor Day.

On Sunday, July 17th there will be ONE service at 9:30 a.m. followed by a Search Committee Forum from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Trinity Prayer Concerns

Please pray for our Trinity family in the Armed Services of our country:

Kyle Crump
Kevin Hill
Corbin Humphrey
Matt Kroupa
Glenn Lynch
Gordon Lynch
John Nichols
Craig Phillips
LaTreese Phillips
Nathaniel Phillips
Terry Stone

Immediate Needs:

Julia Davis
Bill Nichol

Long Term Needs:

Ginny Atkinson
Michael Atkinson
Peggy Beck
Melissa Belcher
Jason Blevins
Kristi Calton
Jack Campbell
Joe Caravello
Ann Cochrane
Gary Cook
Bob Dalessio
David Dalessio
Richard Dalessio
Herbert Foltz
John Foltz
Scott Green
Hilda Harbin
Sarah Harvey
Pat Hartsock
Perry Hartsock
Michael Hensley

Adam Hewko
Linda Hicks
Sue Hidley
Kelly Jarvis
Allen Johnson
Katherine Joyce
Kale King
Bill Lamm
Angelia Lawrence
Laura Liner
Rocky Lyons
Joyce Mason
Gail Mayer
Jake Mayer
Dick Olchak
Susan Olchak
Mike Palumbo
Claire Richards
Ron Richards
Theresa Rizzo
Richard Robbins, IV
Haley Selby
Chris Sheppard
Stan Smith
Sid Spencer, Jr.
Robbie Snyder
Marie Taylor
Malik Torrence
Betty Town
Vicky Town
Shirley Varn
Patty Wise & Family
Jack Woltz

Healing Rites Offered

On the first Sunday of each month, anointing and laying on of hands is offered before the Prayer of Thanksgiving. To participate in this powerful time of prayer, simply remain at the Altar rail after receiving Holy Communion.

Pastoral care at Trinity

At this time of change we should all continue to be aware of pastoral needs of each other, and communicate these to Sam via Tobi at the church office or to any vestry member so that they can be addressed.

If you are unable to attend due to an illness or infirmity and would like to receive communion, please contact the church office.



How to let us know of your prayer concerns:

Call the church office at 336-786-6067 or email us at info@trinitymtairy.com



July Birthdays and Anniversaries

July Birthdays

3rd Ann Vaughn
3rd James Derrick
6th Steve Phillips
12th Jack Campbell
16th Rick Brintle
21st Tom Dickenson
23rd Erika Rowe
31st Pat Gallagher

July Anniversaries

10th Bill & Alberta Anderson

Birthday Blessings

You may come forward for a birthday blessing during any of our services. It is our custom to put one penny (-or dollar!) in the birthday bank for each year of your life.

The funds go to support our Staples Food Ministry.



Find us on
Facebook

Trinity
Tribune
July 2016

Po Box 1043
Mount Airy, NC 27030

www.trinitymtairy.com
www.facebook.com/trinitymtairy
info@trinitymtairy.com
(336) 786-6067
