

In this issue

- 1 Rector's Message
- 2 Message Cont/History
- 3 Trinity Happenings
- 4 March Calendar
- 5 March Schedule
- 6 Snapshots of Trinity
- 7 Prayer Concerns
- 8-9 "Keeping it simple"
- 10 March Birthdays



Trinity Tribune March 2019

"Piskipalian's revival"

I read a sermon about Shrove Tuesday by one of my favorite preachers, Rev. Dr. Delmer Chilton who I have never met, but I read his commentaries and listen to his podcasts as part of my regular sermon preparation. I happened to come across this sermon that he had written back in 2013 and saw that he grew up in Mt. Airy and then mentioned our church. I sent him an email asking for permission to share it with you and he called and gave me his blessing. I hope you gain as much from it as I did.

Sarah

Shriven or Fat?

by the Rev. Dr. Delmer L. Chilton

Text: Romans 7: 14-25

When I was a kid growing up in Mount Airy, NC; I had absolutely no knowledge or experience of the church year. We had a Christmas play on the Sunday night before Christmas and Easter just kind of showed up one Sunday with no preliminaries and had more to do with Sunrise Service at the Moravian Cemetery and the Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School and my sisters and mother having new dresses than anything else. We were not a liturgical people.

My favorite place to shop when I was a kid was the Robby's Army/Navy Surplus store on Main Street. Most Fridays I went to town with Mama when she went to "get her hair fixed," and went to Robby's to look at manly men stuff and to occasionally buy a knife or a shirt or something.

Across the street from Robby's was Trinity Episcopal Church; a tiny stone building that seated maybe 50 people and had a Fellowship Hall downstairs. Every year I was fascinated to see the sign go up in their yard advertising "Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Ash Wednesday Service" Two different days; one sign.

Nobody I knew could tell me what that was all about; not parents or teachers or even my preacher. The best anyone could do was my Baptist Deacon Granddaddy who said, "I reckon it's the way them 'Piskipalians has a revival and a fellowship dinner." Close enough, I'd say, for an opinion formed out of almost complete ignorance of the subject; a technique I have inherited and exploited with children over the years.

At about the same time, I became acquainted with the New Orleans tradition of Mardi Gras, mostly through my devout Aunt Ethel; who gave me Evangelical Tracts and Paperback books for Birthday and Christmas presents until she died when I was forty. (She was still hoping I would turn my back on my obvious crypto-Catholicism and accept Jesus.)

It was in a somewhat lurid paperback description of the soul-saving work of the Rev. Bob Harrington, known to his admirers as the "Chaplain of Bourbon Street." The only religious effect it had on me was making me consider going into the Baptist Ministry just so I could attend New Orleans Baptist Seminary.

It was only in Seminary that I began to connect the dots between Shrove Tuesday and Mardi Gras. Here's this from [The Oxford Encyclopedia of Christianity](#).

On the eve of Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, the season of fasting, people first went to confession, to be "shriven," hence Shrove Tuesday, and then ate pancakes, to use up the ingredients forbidden during Lent. This turned into a longer period of pre-Lent celebration, known as Carnival or Mardi Gras. P. 468

Continued on page 2

Although I admit to having a little fun with this, I don't think it far-fetched of me to see the two different ways of observing this day as being more than a cultural difference between the repressed and dour English and Northern Europeans on the one hand and the more "party-hearty" attitude of the French and the other Mediterranean peoples on the other.

We all find it difficult to figure out how seriously to take sin; our own and that of others. We know we're not as good as we could be; or maybe should be.

But also, most of us are unwilling to admit being as bad as some other people think we are; or conversely, as bad as we think some other people are.

No matter how we have failed our own ethical and moral standards, we are all of us more than willing to look around and say, "Well, Lord, at least I'm not as bad as that person. At least I didn't do THAT!"

And so, we come up to Lent with two attitudes:

One is represented by being Shriven. We look at Lent as a time to grow spiritually, to pray, and read and draw closer to God. We see this time before Lent as a time of solemn contemplation and sober reflection; well represented by eating damp and tepid pancakes and half-cooked sausage on a paper plate that folds up and spills syrup on the Fellowship Hall table as you sit uncomfortably in your folding chair and sip bad coffee from a Styrofoam Cup.

The other is represented by getting FAT. By the wonderful phrase "Let the good times Roll!" We have to go through this Lenten time of restriction and restraint, so we'd best get the partying out of our system before it starts.

To tell you the truth, I'm not exactly sure which of these represents Saint and which Sinner in Luther's famous *simul justus et peccator*; ***saint and sinner at the same time.***

What I am really clear about is that each of us is just that; saint and sinner at the same time, each of us struggles with it; each of us seeks the good, and all too often fails; fails to see it in others or to achieve it in ourselves.

And the gospel is; God loves us anyway, yes indeed, God loves us anyway; ***Ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!***

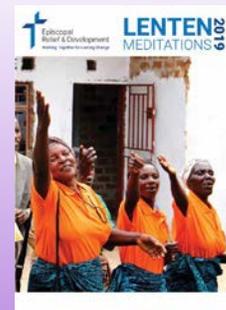
Amen and amen.

Originally posted on [February 8, 2013](#) by [jpcontent](#)



Trinity Tidbits – from the Parish Register and the research of Robert Merritt

On March 12, 1953, the Trinity Church Mission Committee voted for Trinity Church to apply for parish status in union with the annual diocesan convention to be held at Christ Church, Raleigh, NC May 12-13, 1953. The Rt. Rev. Edwin A. Penick, Bishop of the Diocese of NC, gave his written consent and a formal petition was submitted to the Committee on the Admission of New Parishes, along with financial statement, a description of the church property, church building, and rectory, a description of the church activities, and a description of Mount Airy. At the convention Trinity Church was officially advanced parish status. In a special issue of the Trinity Church Bulletin, the rector wrote: "During the Convention representatives of churches and missions throughout the Diocese extended congratulations and prayerful best wishes as we launch out into this new era of the church's life in this community. This is a tremendously important step in the life of our congregation. Through it may we be led to dedicate ourselves ever more fully to Christ our Savior, that we may be led and empowered by His Spirit to accomplish the work which he has committed to us in this community. "



The 2019 Episcopal Relief & Development **Lenten Meditation booklets** are here. Pick up your copy today!



You are invited to a **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** on Tuesday, March 5th at 6:00 p.m. We will have a meal of pancakes, sausage and bacon provided by our Trinity men. To volunteer, please contact Tom Fawcett or Ross Borders.



Ash Wednesday services will be held on Wednesday, March 6th at noon and 5:30 p.m.



New Class-We will begin a new class this March. Encountering Jesus, a short course in Christian spirituality with emphasis on contemplative approaches to prayer and scripture study will be led by Jim Wuenscher. Classes will be held on Wednesdays during Lent beginning on March 13th from 4:30 p.m.-5:15 p.m.



Book Group-The next book study group will focus on Lenten meditations. Meetings will be on Wednesdays from 10:30-12:00 beginning on March 6 and finish on April 17. I invite each interested person to find their own Lenten meditation book, and use it during Lent. Bring it with you to each meeting and share what it meant to you. You can read your favorite message from the week, or just listen to others selections. If you have books you are willing to share, please bring them to church. There is a Sharing Box in the parlor, and anyone interested in borrowing one may help themselves.



Stewardship Update: We are truly grateful to all of you who continue to support Trinity's mission and ministry through your work, prayers and offerings of time, talent and treasure. If you plan to pledge, but haven't filled out a card yet, we encourage you to do so. So far we have 45 households who have pledged for 2019 totaling \$162,148.00.



Knit One, Pray Too

Our knitting and crochet ministry is growing! We will meet on March 21 at 2:00 pm in the parish hall. We are making prayer squares as small reminders of God's love, scarves to spread the warmth of God's love and care, and prayer shawls to wrap people in a tangible hug of God's peace. Please join us to learn these yarn crafts or to help us in this ministry.



ECW is collecting food items for North Surry High School's backpack program. Suggested items include single serve or easily prepared foods such as: canned chicken or tuna, peanut butter & jelly, soups, chips/crackers, cereal, pop-tarts, juice boxes or shelf stable milk, ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese. Hygiene items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps and deodorants are also appreciated.



Photos please! We are expanding our social media presence and we are asking that if you have pictures of events at Trinity to please send them to Brooke Springthorpe at brookespringthorpe@yahoo.com.



To contact **The Rev. Sarah Carper Morris**, you may reach her in the church office Tuesday-Friday or by email trinityrevsarah@gmail.com.



Anyone interested in being involved in a worship ministry such as acolyte, usher, reader, chalice bearer or choir member please let Sarah know.



The glass top desk that was in the rector's office is **for sale**. If you are interested, please stop by or call the church office and make an offer.

Godly Play



In March our Godly Play lessons continue with three parables of Jesus: the great pearl, the good shepherd, and the good Samaritan. We then move into Lent with a lesson on crosses and exploring the Faces of Easter. Godly Play is an interactive learning time for children ages five to fifth grade and begins at 9:20 each Sunday morning. All are welcomed.



The Lex Matthews Scholarship is accepting applications for the 2019-2020 academic year through March 15. This scholarship is sponsored by the ECW of the Diocese. Women who are 23 years of age or older may apply.

Applicants are required to outline a course of study for specialized training in vocational or technical skills, or a degree below masters level. Check with Sarah or Tobi for more information.

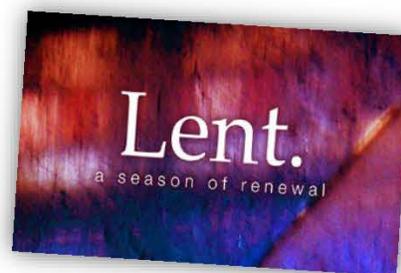
March

2019

Trinity Episcopal Church

Psalm 51:11

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:30 am Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Godly Play 10:30 am Holy Eucharist	4	5 9 am MLC 6 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	6 10:30 am Book Group 12:00 pm Imposition of Ashes 5:30 pm Imposition of Ashes 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 8:30 am Staples	8	9
10 8:30 am Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Godly Play 10:30 am Holy Eucharist <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	11	12 9 am Medical Loan Closet	13 10:30 am Book Group 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 8:30 am Staples	15	16
17 8:30 am Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Godly Play 10:30 am Holy Eucharist <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19 9 am Medical Loan Closet	20 10:30 am Book Group 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal <i>First Day of Spring</i>	21 8:30 am Staples	22	23
24 8:30 am Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Godly Play 10:30 am Holy Eucharist	25	26 9 am Medical Loan Closet	27 10:30 am Book Group 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	28 8:30 am Staples	29	30
31 8:30 am Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Godly Play 10:30 am Holy Eucharist						

March 2019 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>Godly Play</i>
March 3 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Ginny & Gloria	Mary Fawcett	Ann Cochrane Kale King	Mike Wilson Linda Light	The Tatmans	Pat & Ann	Brenda Goings
March 10 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Ross & Jill	Lucinda Fallin	Ann Cochrane Linda Light	Mike Wilson Janet Sos.	Lent-No Flowers	Wendy Tatman	Kate Appler
March 17 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Kate Appler	Brenda Goings	Vicky Town Gloria Lawrence	Mike Wilson Wendy Tatman	Lent-No Flowers	Beckie Derrick	Janet Sosnowski
March 24 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Janet & Pat	Denny Jennings	Ann Cochrane Sue Hidley	Mike Wilson Janet Herman	Lent-No Flowers	Ann & Pat	Wendy Tatman
March 31 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Volunteer Needed	Macon Sammons	Vicky Town Ann Vaughn	Mike Wilson Linda Light	Lent-No Flowers	Linda Light	Kate Appler



**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour before going to bed
Saturday, March 9th.**

Snapshots of Trinity



Trinity Prayer Concerns

Immediate Needs:

Shayne Bell
Mazie Chilton
Claire Collins
Mildred Edwards
Charles Gunter
Betty Hooven
Rob Jackson
Leroy Johnson
Kristin Leathers
Lyn Lewellyn
Clara MacGruder
Renee Morgan
Dick Olchak
Candace Sammons
Stan Smith
Bill Stinson
Vicky Town
Jerry Varn

Adam Hewko
Linda Hicks
Melva Houston
Kelly Jarvis
Allen Johnson
James Johnson
James Kemp
Kale King
David Kroupa
Butch Lancaster
Angelia Lawrence
Wade Nichols
Susan Olchak
Rocks-Anne Paul
Theresa Rizzo
Dave Robbins
Sheila Robbins
Haley Selby
Sid Spencer, Jr.
Barbara Summerlin
Lyn Stabler-Tippett
Marie Taylor
Malik Torrence
Betty Town
Tom Wilmoth
Wayne Wilmouth
Jack Woltz
Hope Zimmerman

Long Term Needs:

Melissa Belcher
Kristi Calton
Theresa Caravello
Richard Dalessio
Ron Doerschug
Linda Doerschug
Donna Fargo
John Foltz
Gatewood Family
Chandra Harmon
James Hayes

Healing Rites Offered

Laying on of hands and anointing will be offered at the altar at each service. To participate please remain at the altar rail after receiving Holy Communion.

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, Robert Poole, Terry Stone

If you have placed a name on the prayer list and feel it is time to take it off, please call Tobi in 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





“Keeping it Simple” - As featured in the Disciple Winter 2019 edition

By Christine McTaggart

If you believe in “meant to be,” it’s hard to find a better example of it in action than Lyn’s Medical Loan Closet, a ministry of Trinity, Mt. Airy. Named for the former rector instrumental in green-lighting the project, the loan closet has, in only one year, gone from a small ministry with modest hopes to a valued and key resource within the community it serves.

AN OLD FRIEND RETURNS

It began in September 2017, when former rector the Rev. Bob Cathers returned to Trinity to share his work with the medical loan closet founded by St. James Episcopal Church in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Cathers was the rector at Trinity 30 years ago and has been involved in the Hendersonville medical closet for the last 20 years. Though long since departed from Trinity, the church stayed with Cathers, and hearing it was thinking about its next steps in ministry, he returned to Trinity to visit with and speak to the congregation about starting a medical loan closet in Mt. Airy for Surry County.

“He was just so excited to share it with us,” said Brenda Goings, ministry volunteer and senior warden at Trinity.

He was not the only one. Then-rector the Rev. Lyn Stabler-Tippet was excited to hear about it and recognized immediately a medical loan closet could be the answer to Trinity’s search for a ministry that would serve and be adaptable to the surrounding community. The proposal even came with a roadmap in the form of a notebook that “had everything we needed,” said Goings. “Pictures, directions and point-by-point instructions on paperwork, set up, how to work with customers – just everything.”

Stabler-Tippet tasked vestry member Bill Noble to go through the notebook and explore the possibility of pursuing the ministry. Within weeks, a group had been put together, four of whom –

Margaret Martin, Bill and Janet Noble, and Susan Falk – drove to Hendersonville to see their medical closet in action.

“We were overwhelmed,” said Noble. “They’ve been in business more than 50 years in Henderson County, and it’s such a simple idea that works to an extravagant degree. This ministry really grabs you.”

It didn’t let go, and by October, Trinity was actively working toward opening the doors of the ministry in early 2018. “We recognized the potential right from the beginning,” said Noble. “We had such an introduction to the ministry through our patron, the medical closet in Hendersonville, and the notebook they gave us to guide us. It was a startup catalog, with everything we needed, and Hendersonville even provided us with the first 118 pieces of equipment. They absolutely primed the pump.”

Trinity spent the remaining months of 2017 setting up the ministry: completing paperwork, finding a location, organizing volunteers and bringing in the initial inventory. By January, the core volunteers were receiving internal training in the running of the ministry and the details of dealing with customers and fitting medical equipment. On January 30, 2018, a little more than four months after first hearing about the ministry, the doors to Lyn’s Medical Closet opened.

A COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE

“It works just like a library,” said Noble, “only we loan medical equipment.” The loan closet does not, under any circumstances, offer medical advice, though they will assist with the fitting of crutches or wheelchairs. Equipment is loaned for 90 days (hospital beds are loaned for 180 days) with the option to renew, and the process is as simple as the client (or their representative) filling out an agreement promising to bring it back on time and naming a responsible party if the equipment is not returned. There is no charge for the equipment, and the closet is open to all residents of Surry County, regardless of income.

It might be supposed that with such generosity on the part of the loan closet, disappearing inventory could be a problem. The reality is exactly the opposite. “So far, we haven’t had a problem with someone not returning equipment,” said Noble. But even if equipment did disappear on a regular basis, the ministry would go on.

“We worried about [disappearing equipment] when we were thinking about starting the ministry,” said Noble, “but we came to realize that this is about putting medical equipment into the hands of those who need it. That’s the ministry. If we loan a piece of medical equipment and never see it again, we have still fulfilled our ministry by providing medical equipment where it is needed. But we haven’t experienced any loss.”

The care with which the equipment is treated coupled with the response of the Mt. Airy community clearly illustrates just how much the ministry is needed and valued. It was evident the day the ministry opened its doors for an open house; it was hoped a dozen people might come by. More than 65 attended.

It hasn't stopped, and the energy around the medical closet both through Trinity and the surrounding community continues to grow. So has the closet, and it's mostly been through word of mouth. A poster was created by a Trinity parishioner, and, said Noble, "just about every member has picked up a poster and taken it to their favorite store or restaurant and asked to put it up." A doctor in the congregation took posters to the local hospital, and the image also hangs proudly in a local orthopedist's office.

"We're very proud that at least a third of our patients come to us from health care providers," said Noble. "Home health aides, nurses and hospice all recognize the value of this service and ministry, and they're spreading the word."

They're also bringing medical equipment. Because equipment purchased through Medicare cannot be used again, health care professionals are guiding used equipment to the medical closet. The local hospice brings equipment used at their facilities when patients are done with it, and another local health care provider now brings a monthly donation of equipment that before was taken to the dump or destroyed because Medicare regulations prevented its reuse. Professionals are not the only donors, though.

"Donations come from everybody who has ever had a problem that required a cane or crutches or a wheelchair," said Noble. "They're bringing it all from attics and garages – it comes from all over the place!" He chuckles as he describes it, but sounds only grateful when he adds, "Starting out, we thought this ministry was about letting merchandise out the door. And it is, but it's only half of it. The other half is the people who give to the ministry. [Everyone donating] merchandise is partaking in the ministry, and that's how they see it."

The result is undeniable. Lyn's Medical Closet opened its doors with 118 pieces of medical equipment valued at \$11,000. In only seven months, it grew to more than 340 pieces of equipment

valued at \$41,000. It was projected by the end of 2018 that the loan closet would serve more than 200 patients in its first 11 months.

"We serve everybody," said Noble. "The automatic thought is that we serve the poor or the people without means, and we do. But we also serve the person who just broke their leg and needs a pair of crutches. It's all people – we serve the entire community."

DON'T REINVENT THE WHEEL

As the ministry looks ahead to 2019, it hopes to expand its volunteer base to allow the closet to be open additional hours during the week. Currently served by a core group of eight Trinity members, volunteers serve in teams of two one day per week, essentially serving one shift per month to ensure consistency and prevent burnout. Trinity is reaching out to invite volunteers from other sources, and as soon as another team of eight is assembled, the loan closet will be able to open additional days of the week.

When asked of lessons learned that might teach others interested in starting a ministry, Noble said, "keep it simple. And talk to others who have done something similar to what you want to do. Learn from their mistakes and experience. You don't have to reinvent the wheel."

Most importantly, he said, know that God is with you. "God has been a part of this ministry since day one," said Noble. "No one could possibly have put this together in four months like we did without getting a single 'no.' We never got a no! Whatever we needed or were requesting, we got. He guided us, and we followed that direction. We was – and is – right with us."

SIDEBAR:

Lyn's Medical Closet is located at the Jones Family Resource Center (215 Jones School Road, Mount Airy, NC) and is open from 9a.m. to 1p.m. every Tuesday. No appointment is necessary. For more information, please call (336) 786-6067.

Christine McTaggart is the communications director for the Diocese of North Carolina. Contact her at christine.mctaggart@episdionc.org.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

14th Eric Jennings
17th Bill Woltz
23rd Theresa Gray
26th Holden Appler
27th Jay Springthorpe

Anniversaries

25th Scott & Jennifer Green



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.

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